

HARFORD COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
102 South Hickory Avenue
Bel Air, Maryland 21014

RFP Announcement

RFP TITLE: **Pet Insurance**

RFP NUMBER: **24-DS-023**

RFP DUE DATE AND TIME: **June 20, 2024, 12:00 pm local time**

RFP EMAIL SUBMITTAL ADDRESS: Submit your Proposal electronically to:
bids@hcps.org

PURCHASING AGENT: Denise Semenkow
Denise.Semenkow@hcps.org
410-809-6040

QUESTIONS DUE DATE AND TIME: Questions must be e-mailed to Denise.Semenkow@hcps.org no later than noon pm local time on **May 21, 2024**.

ADDENDUM ISSUED: No later than **May 30, 2024**.

PRE-PROPOSAL CONFERENCE: **May 7, 2024 at 10:00 am** and online via Teams at the following link:

[Join the meeting now](#)
Meeting ID: 234 110 420 08
Passcode: AGzsfV
Dial-in by phone
[+1 240-600-1475](tel:+12406001475)., [774798072#](tel:+1774798072) United States, Bethesda
[Find a local number](#) Phone conference ID: 774 798 072#

TIMELY DELIVERY OF RFP DOCUMENTS: Proposals must be received in the Purchasing e-mail box, bids@hcps.org, on or before the RFP due date and time.

Proposals submitted via e-mail shall include the name and address of the Offeror, the title and number of the RFP, and the RFP opening date. Technical Proposals **must** be submitted separately from the Cost Proposals in 2 separate files or e-mails. It is the Offeror(s) responsibility to verify that the Proposal has been received at bids@hcps.org, prior to the due date. 'Read Receipts' are not sufficient. Offeror(s) may contact the Buyer listed within the solicitation, by email or phone, to confirm receipt of bids.

INCLEMENT WEATHER: If Harford County Public Schools Administrative Offices are closed on the day a proposal is DUE, that proposal will be due at the same time the next day the Administrative Offices are open.

Bidders may obtain the Solicitation Documents by downloading the information at our website: www.hcps.org/departments/BusinessServices/purchasing.aspx. Bidders shall continue to check the HCPS website for possible addenda to the bid(s) prior to the bid opening date.

The Contract Award Report, will be posted on the HCPS webpage at <https://www.hcps.org/departments/BusinessServices/procurement.aspx> (Solicitation Results) after evaluation and approval by the Board of Education of Harford County, if required.

LATE PROPOSALS WILL BE REJECTED AND RETURNED UNOPENED

Anti-Discrimination Statement

The Board of Education of Harford County Public does not discriminate on the basis of age, ancestry/national origin, color, disability, pregnancy, gender identity/expression, marital status, race, religion, sex, or sexual orientation in matters affecting employment or in providing access to programs and activities and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups.

In accordance with the requirements of Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 (20 U.S.C. §1681, *et seq.*), Harford County Public Schools does not discriminate on the basis of sex in any of its programs or activities or with regard to employment. Inquiries about the application of Title IX, and its implementing regulations to Harford County Public Schools may be referred to Renee McGlothlin, Harford County Public Schools Title IX Coordinator, by mail to 102 S. Hickory Avenue, Bel Air, Maryland 21014, or by telephone to 410-809-6087 or by email to Renee.McGlothlin@hcps.org or the Assistant Secretary for the Office of Civil Rights in the United States Department of Education by mail to 400 Maryland Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20202 or by telephone 1-800-421-3481, or both.

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**Board of Education of Harford County, Maryland
Purchasing Department
102 South Hickory Avenue, Third Floor, Suite 310
Bel Air, Maryland 21014**

**GENERAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS
Request for Proposal**

Instruction to Offerors

The following provisions, where applicable, will become part of any contractual relationship developed as a result of the proposal solicitation.

1.0 A REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL SUBMISSION

- 1.1 The Board of Education of Harford County hereinafter referred to as Harford County Public Schools or HCPS, invites all interested and qualified Offerors to submit a proposal. These specifications and requirements identified in the attached statement of work and detailed specification are intended to cover the service(s) requested.
- 1.2 In accordance with State law and HCPS policies, solicitations shall be published a minimum of fourteen (14) calendar days in advance of due date for any proposal having a potential award value of \$50,000 or more.
- 1.3 Unless otherwise indicated, HCPS shall receive proposals until the date and time indicated on proposal or as modified by addenda. Proposals must be submitted via email to bids@hcps.org and clearly marked on the subject line: Solicitation/Proposal Number and Solicitation Title. **Late proposals will be rejected and returned unopened.**
- 1.4 The Offeror or their authorized representatives are expected to fully inform themselves as to the conditions, requirements, circumstances, prerequisites, qualifications and/or specifications before submitting their proposal. An Offeror's failure to become fully informed is at the Offeror's sole and complete risk of loss. The Offeror shall have no right to any damages, cost and/or any other remedy at law or equity against HCPS for any miscalculation, misunderstanding, error (either omissions or commissions), mistake, misinterpretation, and/or the failure by the Offeror to obtain an award of proposal, award of contract and/or profits, fees or money from HCPS when the Offeror failed to fully inform themselves. In the case of error in extension of prices in the Proposal, the unit price shall govern or the entire proposal may be declared non-responsive.

2.0 PROPOSAL PREPARATION, PROPOSAL SHEET, AND PROPOSAL OPENING

- 2.1 Offeror must electronically submit one (1) original with original signatures of the RFP using HCPS proposal forms. The Offeror should make and retain one original (1) copy of the Proposal for their files. Proposals must be signed and submitted by an authorized representative of the Offeror.
- 2.2 Signed proposals **must** be returned electronically via e-mail to bids@hcps.org, ONLY. HCPS will not accept any facsimile transmission or electronic submission to HCPS Purchasing Agents, representatives, or employees. It is the Offeror(s) responsibility to verify that the Bid has been received at bids@hcps.org, prior to the Bid Opening. 'Read Receipts' are not sufficient. Offerors may contact the Agent listed within the solicitation, by email or phone, to confirm receipt of bids.
- 2.3 Each proposal should show the full business address, telephone number, fax number, email address, and federal tax identification number of the Offeror and be signed by the person or persons legally authorized to sign contracts. All correspondence concerning the Proposal and Contract, including Letter of Intent, copy of Contract, and Purchase Order, will be mailed or delivered to the address shown on the Proposal in the absence of written instructions from the Offeror to the contrary.
- 2.4 All offerors shall be required to complete the certificates and/or affidavits, and/or acknowledgements that are incorporated into the proposal pages of this specification. Such documents are required by Local, State or Federal funding agencies of HCPS as part of the solicitation process. The documents may include but are not limited to: Anti-Bribery Affidavit, Debarment Certificate, Employment of Sex

Offenders and Other Criminal Offenders Affidavit, Sales Tax Certification, Minority Bidder Status, and any others that may be required.

2.5 Proposal Due Date

- 2.5.1 Sealed proposals for the requirements identified in the attached statement of work and detailed specifications, as required by the Board of Education of Harford County, are due at the time and date so specified. Unless otherwise indicated, proposals are due to the Purchasing Department, electronically via email to bids@hcps.org.
 - 2.5.2 The Board of Education of Harford County must approve contract awards of \$100,000 or more. Formal contract award is contingent upon the required Board approval.
 - 2.5.3 Offerors may correct a minor irregularity and minor irregularities may be waived. A minor irregularity is one that is merely a matter of form and not of substance or pertains to an immaterial or inconsequential defect or variation in the proposal, the correction or waiver of which would not be prejudicial to other offerors. When so noted, minor irregularities may be corrected within forty-eight (48) hours following notification.
 - 2.5.4 HCPS also reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and/or waive technical defects and minor irregularities at the discretion of the Supervisor of Purchasing, HCPS, or designee if, in its judgment the interests of HCPS shall so require. Proposals may be withdrawn before the scheduled time due. Withdrawal is not permitted after the scheduled time due.
 - 2.5.5 Any omissions, errors, conflicts, or discrepancies in this document shall be called to the attention of HCPS IN WRITING within five (5) working days prior to the proposal due date.
 - 2.5.6 Omission of any specification or details of any specification which would normally apply to the service(s) described herein shall not relieve the Offeror from fulfilling those required specifications needed to provide service best suited to the intended purpose of this contract as determined by the Supervisor of Purchasing.
- 2.6 At the time of the solicitation opening each Offeror will be presumed to have read and to be thoroughly familiar with the specifications and related documents (including all Addenda). The failure or omission of any Offeror to receive or examine any form, instrument, or document, shall in no way relieve them from any obligation in respect of its proposal.

3.0 AWARD OR REJECTION OF PROPOSALS

- 3.1 This document is a Request for Proposal (RFP) which differs from an Invitation for Bid in that HCPS is seeking a proven solution for the requirements described in the RFP document. As such, price is not the determining factor regarding the contract award.
- 3.2 As defined by the American Bar Association Model Procurement Code, Competitive Sealed Proposals (RFP) will be evaluated based upon criteria formulated around the most important features of a service, of which quality, testing, reference, and technical expertise and capability may be overriding factors, and price may not be determinative in the issuance of a contract or award.
- 3.3 The Proposal evaluation criteria should be viewed as standards that measure how well a proposal meets the intended outcomes described in the performance work statement. Those criteria that will be used and considered in evaluation for award are set forth in this document.
- 3.4 All proposal documents will become the property of HCPS. Proposals must be submitted in accordance with the requirements set forth in this RFP.
- 3.5 The Board of Education reserves the right to reject any or all proposals, and/or waive technical defects if, in its judgment the interests of the Board shall so require. Minor differences in the specifications or other minor technicalities may be waived at the discretion of Supervisor of Purchasing or upon recommendation to the Board of Education.

- 3.6 The Board of Education reserves the right to reject the Proposal of firms who have demonstrated performance deficiencies or who have previously failed to perform properly or complete other Board contracts on time.
- 3.7 The Board reserves the right to award to contract within ninety (90) days from the due date and all pricing must remain firm during that period and until the time of award.
- 3.8 For Information Technology (IT), Operational Technology (OT), and Software solicitations **ONLY**. Should HCPS receive responses that offer products of similar cost and functionality, HCPS reserves the right to award a contract to the more secure offering and/or supplier to meet cybersecurity requirements as outlined by the National Institute of Standards and Technology.

4.0 MULTI-AGENCY PROCUREMENT

HCPS reserves the right to extend the terms and conditions of this contract to any and all other government agencies within the State of Maryland, as well as any other federal, state, municipal, county, or local governmental agency under the jurisdiction of the United States and its territories. This is conditioned upon the Contractors' approval and all purchase and payment transactions will be made directly between the Contractor and the requesting public agency.

5.0 WAIVER OF TECHNICALITIES

Minor differences in the specifications or other minor technicalities may be waived at the discretion of the Supervisor of Procurement.

6.0 ADDENDA

- 6.1 All changes to the Proposal Specifications will be made through appropriate Addenda issued from the Purchasing Department.
- 6.2 Addenda notices will be posted on the Purchasing Department web site at www.hcps.org, as well as eMaryland Marketplace.
- 6.3 No Addenda will be issued later than five (5) days prior to the date for receipt of proposals except an Addendum withdrawing the request for proposals or one which postpones the date for receipt of proposals.
- 6.4 Each Offeror shall ascertain prior to submitting a Proposal that they have received all Addenda issued and the Offeror shall acknowledge their receipt on the Addenda Form. The Addenda Form shall be completed and returned with the Proposal response. Failure to return the Addenda Form may be reason for rejection of the Proposal.

7.0 DEBRIEFING

Unsuccessful Offerors may be debriefed upon written request received within thirty (30) days following contract award by a procurement officer familiar with the rationale for the selection decision.

8.0 DISSEMINATION OF INFORMATION

During the term of this agreement, the Awarded Offeror shall not release any information related to the services or performance of the services under this agreement nor publish any final reports or documents without prior written approval of HCPS.

9.0 INSURANCE

- 9.1 Review in detail the insurance requirements contained in the attached document. These requirements have been established by the Maryland Association of Boards of Education Group Insurance Pool. Failure to comply with these insurance requirements may render the proposal as non-responsive.

- 9.2 The Awarded Offeror shall take proper safety and health precautions and to protect their work, their employees, the public and the property of others from any damage or injury resulting solely from the performance of the work described herein.
- 9.3 HCPS shall not be liable for any injuries to the employees, agents, or assignees of the Awarded Offeror arising out of, or during the course of the contracted work relating to this agreement.
- 9.4 The Awarded Offeror has in force, or shall obtain, and will maintain insurance in not less than the amounts specified and accordance with the requirements contained in the attached insurance requirements.

**Board of Education of Harford County, Maryland
Purchasing Department
102 South Hickory Avenue, Third Floor, Suite 310
Bel Air, Maryland 21014**

**GENERAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS
Request for Proposal**

1.0 REMEDIES AND TERMINATION

- 1.1 **Correction of Errors, Defects, and Omissions** – The Awarded Offeror agrees to perform work as may be necessary to correct errors, defects, and omissions in the services required under this agreement without undue delays and without cost to HCPS. The acceptance of the work set forth herein by HCPS shall not relieve the Awarded Offeror of the responsibility.
- 1.2 **Set-Off** – HCPS may deduct from and set-off against any amounts due and payable to the Awarded Offeror any back-charges or damages sustained by HCPS by virtue of any breach of this agreement by the Awarded Offeror to perform the services or any part of the services in a satisfactory manner. Nothing herein shall limit the liability of the Awarded Offeror for damages and HCPS may affirmatively collect damages from the Awarded Offeror.
- 1.3 **Termination for Default**
 - 1.3.1 If the Awarded Offeror fails to fulfill its obligations under this contract properly and on time, otherwise violates any provision of the Contract, HCPS may terminate the Contract by written notice to the Awarded Offeror. The notice shall specify the acts of omissions relied on as cause for termination.
 - 1.3.2 All finished or unfinished supplies and services provided by the Consultant, shall at HCPS' option, become HCPS property. HCPS shall pay the Awarded Offeror fair and equitable compensation for satisfactory performance prior to receipt of Notice of Termination, less the amount of damages caused by Awarded Offeror's breach.
 - 1.3.3 If the damages are more than the compensation payable to the Awarded Offeror, the Awarded Offeror will remain liable after termination and HCPS can affirmatively collect damages.
- 1.4 **Termination for Convenience** – HCPS may terminate all or part of the work required under this contract for the convenience of HCPS with a thirty (30) day notification. In the event of such termination, the Contract Administrator shall determine the costs the Awarded Offeror has incurred to the date of termination and such reasonable costs associated with the termination. HCPS shall pay such costs as determined by the Contract Administrator to the Awarded Offeror together with reasonable profit reasonably earned by the Consultant to the time of termination but not to include any profit not earned as of the date of termination.
 - 1.4.1 **Termination for Non-Appropriation.** HCPS reserves the right to terminate this contract, in whole or part, due to non-appropriation of funds or funds that are otherwise made unavailable to support continuation in any fiscal year succeeding the first fiscal year. Notification of contract termination will be given to the Awarded Offeror thirty (30) days in advance and will be in effect at the beginning of the fiscal year for which funds are not available. The Awarded Offeror may not recover anticipatory profits or costs incurred after termination.
- 1.5 **Obligations of Consultant upon Termination** – Upon Notice of Termination as provided in Sections 4.3 and 4.4, the Awarded Offeror shall:
 - 1.5.1 Take immediate action to orderly discontinue its work and demobilize its work force to minimize the occurrence of costs.
 - 1.5.2 Take such action as may be necessary to protect the property of HCPS, place no further orders or subcontract, assign to HCPS in the manner and to the extent directed by HCPS all the right, title and if ordered by HCPS possession and interest of Awarded Offeror under the orders or subcontracts terminated.

- 1.5.3 Deliver to HCPS all materials, equipment, data, drawings, specifications, reports, estimates, and such other information accumulated by the Awarded Offeror which has been or will be reimbursed under this agreement after taking into account any damages that may be payable to HCPS. Title to such items shall be transferred to HCPS.

- 1.6 **Remedies Not Exclusive** – The rights and remedies contained in this general condition are in addition to any other right or remedy provided by law, and the exercise of any of them is not a waiver of any other right or remedy provided by law.

2.0 DRUG, TOBACCO, AND ALCOHOL

All HCPS properties are "drug, tobacco, and alcohol-free zones" as designated by Local and State laws. Neither the Contractor or their employees (or subcontractors) are permitted to have any drugs, tobacco, or alcohol products on HCPS property. Use or possession of such items on HCPS property will result in immediate termination of the Contract.

3.0 PROTEST AND APPEAL PROCESS

Any bidder objecting to the recommendation for award or the award of a contract may appeal the action to the Supervisor of Procurement by formal notification in writing within seven (7) calendar days of award. A protest must include: the name, address, and contact information of the protestor; signature of the protestor or an authorized representative of the protestor; identification of the solicitation or proposal number; detailed statement of reasons for the protest; supporting documentation to substantiate the claim; and the remedy sought. A formal written response to the appeal shall be issued within ten (10) calendar days following receipt of the formal protest. The decision of the Supervisor of Procurement may be appealed to the Superintendent of Schools within five (5) business days following receipt of decision from the Supervisor of Procurement. The decision of the Superintendent is final and conclusive.

4.0 NON-DISCRIMINATION

- 4.1 The Contractor shall comply with all Federal and State anti-discrimination laws in the performance of this contract.
- 4.2 The Board of Education of Harford County Public does not discriminate on the basis of age, ancestry/national origin, color, disability, pregnancy, gender identity/expression, marital status, race, religion, sex, or sexual orientation in matters affecting employment or in providing access to programs and activities and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups.
- 4.3 In accordance with the requirements of Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 (20 U.S.C. §1681, *et seq.*), Harford County Public Schools does not discriminate on the basis of sex in any of its programs or activities or with regard to employment. Inquiries about the application of Title IX, and its implementing regulations to Harford County Public Schools may be referred to Renee McGlothlin, Harford County Public Schools Title IX Coordinator, by mail to 102 S. Hickory Avenue, Bel Air, Maryland 21014, or by telephone to [410-809-6087](tel:410-809-6087) or by email to Renee.McGlothlin@hcps.org or the Assistant Secretary for the Office of Civil Rights in the United States Department of Education by mail to 400 Maryland Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20202 or by telephone [1-800-421-3481](tel:1-800-421-3481), or both.
- 4.4 The Awarded Offeror shall furnish, if requested by HCPS, a compliance report concerning their employment practices and policies in order for HCPS to ascertain compliance with the special provisions of this contract concerning discrimination in employment.
- 4.5 In the event the Awarded Offeror is deemed noncompliant with the nondiscrimination clause of this contract, this contract may be canceled, terminated, or suspended in whole or in part.

5.0 NON-HIRING OF EMPLOYEES BY AWARDED OFFEROR OR HCPS

- 5.1 No employee of the HCPS or any unit thereof, whose duties as such employee include matters relating to or affecting the subject matter of this contract, shall, while so employed, become or be an employee of the party or parties hereby contracting with the HCPS or any unit thereof.

- 5.2 No employee of the Awarded Offeror or any unit thereof, whose duties as such employee include matters relating to or affecting the subject matter of this contract, shall, while so employed, become or be an employee of the party or parties hereby contracting with the Awarded Offeror or any unit thereof.

6.0 FINANCIAL DISCLOSURE

The Awarded Offeror shall comply with the provisions of Section 13-221 of the State Finance and Procurement Article, Annotated Code of Maryland, which requires that every business that enters into contracts, leases or other agreements with the State of Maryland or its agencies, including school districts, during a calendar year under which the business is to receive in the aggregate \$100,000 or more, shall within thirty (30) days of the time when the aggregate value of these contracts, leases or other agreements reached \$100,000, file with the Secretary of State of Maryland certain specified information to include disclosure of beneficial ownership of the business.

7.0 POLITICAL CONTRIBUTION DISCLOSURE

Awarded Offeror shall comply with the provisions of Section 14-101 et seq. of the Election Law Article of the Maryland Code, which require that every person that enters into contracts, leases, or other agreements with the State of Maryland, including its agencies or a political subdivision of the State, including school districts, during a calendar year under which the person receives in the aggregate \$10,000 or more, shall, on or before February 1 of the following year, file with the Secretary of State of Maryland certain specified information to include disclosure of political contributions in excess of \$100 to a candidate for elective office in any primary or general election.

8.0 RETENTION OF RECORDS

The Awarded Offeror shall retain and maintain all records and documents relating to this contract for three (3) years after final payment by HCPS hereunder or any applicable statute of limitations, whichever is longer, and shall make them available for inspection and audit by authorized representatives of HCPS or designee, at all reasonable times.

9.0 LANGUAGE/GENDER

- 9.1 Proposer, offeror, vendor, consultant, firm, and contractor all have the same meaning and may be used interchangeably.
- 9.2 The Board of Education of Harford County is also referred to as HCPS, Harford County Public Schools, and Board of Education which may be used interchangeably.
- 9.3 Proposal and offer all have the same meaning and can be used interchangeably.

10.0 COMPLIANCE WITH LAW

- 10.1 The Proposer hereby represents and warrants that it is qualified to do business in the State of Maryland and that it will take such action as, from time to time hereafter, may be necessary to remain so qualified.
- 10.2 The Proposer hereby represents and warrants it is not in arrears with respect to the payment of any monies due and owing the County or State, of any department or agency thereof, including but not limited to the payment of taxes and employee benefits, and that it shall not become so in arrears during the term of this agreement.
- 10.3 The Proposer shall comply with all Federal, State and Local law, ordinances and legally enforceable rules and regulations applicable to its activities and obligations under this agreement.
- 10.4 The Awarded Proposer must, at its expense, obtain any and all licenses, permits, insurance, and governmental approval required by Local, State, and Federal authorities, if any, necessary to perform its obligations under this agreement.
- 10.5 The Proposer at the time of proposal opening must be fully licensed in all trades or special areas that require a license by Local, State, and Federal authorities.

- 10.6 It is the Awarded Offeror's responsibility to notify HCPS of lapses in, suspension of or termination of special permits and licenses required under the Contract.
- 10.7 That the facts and matters set forth hereafter in the "Contract Affidavit" which is attached to this agreement and made a part hereof are true and correct.

11.0 CONSULTANT'S OBLIGATION

- 11.1 The Awarded Offeror shall abide by and comply with the true intent of the specifications and not take advantage of any unintentional error or omission, but shall fully complete every part as the true intent and meaning of the specifications, as decided by HCPS, and as described herein. Deviations, exceptions, alternates, etc., may render the proposal as non-responsive.
- 11.2 The Awarded Offeror shall perform the services with that standard of care, skill, and diligence normally provided by a consultant in the performance of services similar to the services hereunder.
- 11.3 Notwithstanding any review, approval, acceptance, or payment for the services by HCPS, the Awarded Offeror shall be responsible for professional and technical accuracy of its work furnished by the Awarded Offeror under this agreement.
- 11.4 HCPS review, approval, or acceptance of, nor payment for, any of the services required under this contract shall be construed to operate as a waiver of any rights under this contract or of any cause of action arising out of the performance of this contract, and the Awarded Offeror shall be and remain liable to HCPS in accordance with applicable law for all damages to HCPS caused by the Consultant's negligent performance of any or the services furnished under this contract.
- 11.5 The rights and remedies of HCPS provided for under this contract are in addition to any rights and remedies provided by law.
- 11.6 In case of any apparent conflict between the specifications and such laws, ordinances, etc., the Awarded Offeror shall call the attention of the applicable HCPS designee(s) to such conflict for a decision before proceeding with any work.
- 11.7 Any deviations to the specifications or statement of work must be clearly noted in detail by the Offeror, in writing, at the time of submittal of the formal proposal.
- 11.8 The Awarded Offeror shall and will, in good professional manner, do and perform all services, except as herein otherwise expressly specified, necessary or proper to perform and complete all the work required by this contract, within the time herein specified, in accordance with the provisions of this contract and said specifications and in accordance with the specifications covered by this contract and any and all supplemental specifications, and in accordance with the directions of the Board of Education as given from time to time during the progress of the work. The Awarded Offeror shall observe, comply with and be subject to all terms conditions, requirements and limitations of the Contract and Specifications and shall do, carry on and complete the entire work to the complete satisfaction of the Board of Education.
- 11.9 Awarded Offeror may be required pursuant to the Business Regulation Article of the Maryland Code, to provide proof of Certificate of Registry.

12.0 INDEMNIFICATION

- 12.1 To the fullest extent permitted by law, the Indemnitor shall indemnify, defend and hold the Indemnitee and its employees, agents, officials or volunteers harmless from and against any and all claims, losses, damages, expenses, causes of action and liabilities including without limitations, attorney's fees arising out of or related to the Indemnitor's occupancy or use of the Indemnitee's premises or operations incidental thereto, provided that any such claim, loss, damage, expense, cause of action or liability is attributable to bodily injury, sickness, disease or death, or to injury to or destruction of tangible property, including loss of use resulting there from. Indemnitor expressly indemnifies Indemnitee for the consequences of any negligent act or omission of the Indemnitor or any of the Indemnitor's employees, agents, officials or volunteers or anyone for whose acts the Indemnitor may be liable, unless such act or omission constitutes gross negligence or willful misconduct.

- 12.2 In claims against any person or entity indemnified within this indemnification by an employee of the Awarded Offeror, a subcontractor, anyone directly or indirectly employed by them or anyone for whose acts they may be liable, the indemnification obligation shall not be limited by a limitation on amount or type of damages, compensation or benefits payable by or for the Awarded Offeror or a subcontractor under Workers' Compensation Acts, Disability Benefit Acts, or other employee benefit acts.

13.0 WAIVER OF RIGHT

The Consultant agrees that it and its parent, its affiliates, and subsidiaries, if any; waive the right to offer on any procurement contract, of any tier, resulting from the services to be provided under this agreement.

14.0 INITIATION OF WORK

The Offeror shall not commence performance of the services until it receives a formal written notice from HCPS in the form of a Contract, Purchase Order, or Notice to Proceed from the Supervisor of Purchasing or designated Purchasing Agent.

15.0 DELAYS AND EXTENSIONS

The Awarded Offeror shall pursue the work continuously and diligently and no charges or claims for damages shall be made by the Awarded Offeror for any delays, acceleration, or hindrance, from any cause whatsoever, during the progress of any portion of the services specified in this agreement. Such delays, acceleration, or hindrances, if any, may be compensated for by an extension of time for such reasonable period as HCPS may decide. Time extensions will be granted only for excusable delays such as delays beyond the control of and without the fault or negligence of the Awarded Offeror.

16.0 FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT

- 16.1 Offerors should give specific attention to the identification of those portions of their proposals that they deem to be confidential, proprietary information or trade secrets and provide any justification of why such materials, upon request, should not be disclosed by HCPS. Blanket requests for the entire proposal to be held confidential will not be considered.
- 16.2 HCPS shall determine, in its sole discretion, which (if any) portions of the Offeror's proposals shall be confidential. It is the responsibility of the Proposer to clearly mark such information (pages) as "Confidential."

17.0 STAFF

The Awarded Offeror shall utilize the personnel named and/or otherwise identified in its proposal to perform services required. In the event that any of the personnel named are unable to perform because of death, illness, resignation from the Awarded Offeror's employ, or similar reasons, the Awarded Offeror shall promptly submit to the Contract Administrator, in writing, the name and qualifications of the proposed replacement. No substitutions shall be made without the proper written approval of the Contract Administrator and the Supervisor of Purchasing.

18.0 CHANGES, ALTERATIONS, OR MODIFICATIONS

- 18.1 HCPS shall have the right, at its discretion, to change, alter, or modify the services provided for in this agreement and such changes, alterations, or modifications may be made even though it will result in an increase or decrease in the services of the Awarded Offeror or in the Contract cost thereof.
- 18.2 If such changes cause an increase or decrease in the Awarded Offeror's cost of, or time required for, performance of any service under this contract, whether or not changed by an order, an equitable adjustment shall be made and the Contract shall be modified in writing accordingly. Any claim of the Awarded Offeror for adjustment under this clause must be asserted in writing with thirty (30) days from the date of receipt by the Awarded Offeror of the notification of change unless the Project Manager or his duly authorized representative grants a further period of time before the date of final payment under the Contract.

- 18.3 No services for which an additional cost or fee will be charged by the Awarded Offeror without prior written authorization of HCPS.

19.0 SUBCONTRACTING OR ASSIGNMENT

The benefits and obligations hereunder shall inure to and be binding upon the parties hereto and their respective successors and assigns, provided any such General Provisions for Professional Services successor to the Awarded Offeror, whether such successor or assign be an individual, a partnership, or a corporation, is acceptable to HCPS, and neither this agreement or the services to be performed thereunder shall be subcontracted, or assigned, or otherwise disposed of, either in whole or in part, except with the prior written consent of HCPS.

20.0 ILLEGAL IMMIGRANT LABOR

The use of illegal immigrant labor to fulfill contracts solicited by HCPS is in violation of the law and is strictly prohibited. Awarded Offeror and subcontractors must verify employment eligibility of workers in order to assure that they are not violating Federal/State/Local laws regarding illegal immigration. A compliance audit may be conducted.

21.0 EMPLOYMENT OF CHILD SEX OFFENDERS AND OTHER CRIMINAL OFFENDERS

- 21.1 **If a child sex offender, as determined by the definitions contained in the Criminal Law Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland, is employed by the Awarded Bidder, the Awarded Bidder is prohibited from assigning that employee to perform management, delivery, installation, repair, construction, or any other type of services on any HCPS property, including the project property. Violation of this provision may result in Termination for Cause.**
- 21.2 Offeror(s) acknowledges and agrees that, pursuant to Section §6-113 of the Education Article of Maryland Code, Awarded Offeror is prohibited from knowingly assigning or permitting its Subcontractors from knowingly assigning any of the Awarded Offeror's or Subcontractor's employees to work in, on or about school premises if such employee may or would have direct, unsupervised and uncontrolled access to children if the employee has been convicted of, pled guilty or *nolo contendere*, to any of the following crimes.
- 21.2.1 A sexual offense in the third or fourth degree under §3-307 or §3-308 of the Criminal Law Article of the Maryland Code or an offense under the laws of another state that would constitute an offense under §3-307 or §3-308 of the Criminal Law Article if committed in Maryland;
- 21.2.2 Child sexual abuse under §3-602 of the Criminal Law Article, or an offense under the laws of another state that would constitute child sexual abuse under §3-602 of the Criminal Law Article if committed in Maryland; or
- 21.2.3 A crime of violence as defined in §14-101 of the Criminal Law Article, or an offense under the laws of another state that would be violation of §14-101 of the Criminal Law Article if committed in Maryland, including: (1) abduction; (2) arson in the first degree; (3) kidnapping; (4) manslaughter, except involuntary manslaughter; (5) mayhem; (6) maiming; (7) murder; (8) rape; (9) robbery; (10) carjacking; (11) armed carjacking; (12) sexual offense in the first degree; (13) sexual offense in the second degree; (14) use of a handgun in the commission of a felony or other crime of violence; (15) child abuse in the first degree; (16) sexual abuse of a minor; (17) an attempt to commit any of the crimes described in items (1) through (16) of this list; (18) continuing course of conduct with a child under §3-315 of the Criminal Law Article; (19) assault in the first degree; (20) assault with intent to murder; (21) assault with intent to rape; (22) assault with intent to rob; (23) assault with intent to commit a sexual offense in the first degree; and (24) assault with intent to commit a sexual offense in the second degree.
- 21.3 Direct unsupervised and uncontrolled access with students is prohibited. If you, as the Contractor/Site Supervisor, witness or suspect your employee(s) entering into a student area, action must be taken immediately to rectify the situation.
- 21.4 Section §11-722 of the Criminal Procedure Article of the Maryland Code prohibits any person with a contract with a local Maryland school system from knowingly employing an individual to work at the

school if the individual is registered as a sex offender pursuant to Section §11-704 of the Criminal Procedure Article. Violation of this paragraph may result in termination of the agreement at HCPS's discretion.

22.0 CRIMINAL BACKGROUND CHECKS FOR CONTRACTORS

Amendments to Section §5-561 of the Family Law Article of the Maryland Code effective July 1, 2015, require each Contractor and Sub-Contractor with a local school system to ensure that any individuals in their work force undergo a criminal background check and fingerprinting if such individual will work in, on or about school premises and the individual will have direct, unsupervised and uncontrolled access to children.

The term “**work force**” means any of the Contractor’s employees or the Contractor’s Sub-Contractors and their employees.

Contractor shall cause any member of Contractor’s work force to undergo a criminal history background check, including fingerprinting, if such work force member may or will work in, on or about school premises and may, or will have direct, unsupervised, and uncontrolled access to children. Such background check and fingerprinting shall meet the requirements of Section §5-560 to §5-569 of the Family Law Article of the Maryland Code.

The cost of such criminal background check and fingerprinting shall be paid by Contractor.

HCPS shall have the right, in its sole discretion, to prohibit any individual from performing any work at, or in or about school premises based on such individual’s criminal background check.

- 22.1 IN ADDITION to the above requirements, Contractors shall comply with the requirements of House Bill 486 passed by the General Assembly in 2019, regarding screening of applicants for employment.
 - 22.1.1 Effective July 1, 2019
 - 22.1.2 MSDE Guidance for House Bill 486 – Child Sexual and Sexual Misconduct Prevention) can be found online at www.marylandpublicschools.org.
 - 22.1.3 Submission of Section 000325 Contract Affidavit (HB 486/SB 541 Compliance) is required to be submitted prior to award of contract.

23.0 LABOR AND RATES OF PAY

- 23.1 The Awarded Offeror agrees that it shall abide by all applicable provisions of Federal and State law and regulation pertaining to workplace conditions, child labor and that all employees will be treated with dignity and respect.
- 23.2 The Awarded Offeror agrees to comply with all applicable Federal and State law and regulation relating to payment of wages.

24.0 PROCUREMENT-INVESTMENT ACTIVITIES IN IRAN

The Awarded Offeror agrees that it shall abide by and comply with Section 17-701 et seq. of the State Finance and Procurement Article of the Maryland Code, regarding business in Iran.

25.0 CONTRACT

The Proposal with respect to all items accepted, addenda, agreements and all papers and documents accompanying the same, including these general and special conditions of the RFP shall constitute the formal contract between the Offeror and HCPS.

26.0 COMPLIANCE WITH SPECIFICATIONS

- 26.1 The Awarded Offeror shall abide by and comply with the true intent of the specifications and not take advantage of any unintentional error or omission but shall fully complete every part as the true intent and meaning of the drawings and specifications as described.

- 26.2 The Awarded Offeror, after award and prior to starting work, may be required to submit working drawings or detailed descriptive data identified as acceptable to HCPS, which provide sufficient data to enable HCPS to judge the Awarded Offeror's compliance with the specifications.
- 26.3 Where the requirements of the specifications call for higher grade and are not in conflict with the laws, ordinances, etc., the specifications shall govern.
- 26.4 Where the requirements of the laws, ordinances, etc., are mandatory, they shall govern.
- 26.5 In case of any apparent conflict between the specifications and such laws, ordinances, etc., the Awarded Offeror shall call the attention of the applicable HCPS designee(s) to such conflict for a decision before proceeding with any work.
- 26.6 Any deviations to the Specifications or Statement of Work must be clearly noted in detail by the Offeror, in writing, at the time of submittal of the formal proposal. Any deviations, alternations, or changes to the bid document or from the specifications as written may result in rejection of the Offeror's proposal or materials delivered.

27.0 BILLING AND PAYMENT

- 27.1 Each invoice shall list the purchase order number or contract number of HCPS and the items on the invoice shall be listed in the same order as on the purchase order. The original invoice shall be submitted to the Accounts Payable Office, via email to apinvoice@hcps.org, unless otherwise specified.
- 27.2 Payment in full will only be made upon final acceptance of items as shown on Purchase Order. Partial payments may be paid if partial shipments have been made and received.
- 27.3 Standard HCPS payment terms are net thirty (30) days.
- 27.4 HCPS will not pay freight bills, unless stated otherwise. Delivery shall be F.O.B., to the destination(s) as noted on Purchase Order.

28.0 GOVERNING LAW AND DISPUTE RESOLUTION

- 28.1 Any contract shall be construed in accordance with, and interpreted under, the laws of the State of Maryland. Any lawsuits arising out of such bid shall be filed in the appropriate State Court located in Harford County, Maryland.
- 28.2 Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) may be used at HCPS's sole discretion, but HCPS is not obligated to utilize ADR.

29.0 CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

Each proposer must disclose any existing or potential conflict of interest relative to the provision of services outlined herein. Examples of potential conflicts may include an existing business or personal relationship between the firm, its principal, or any affiliate or subcontractor, with HCPS or any other entity or person involved in any way in the contract. Similarly, any personal or business relationship between the firm, the principals, or any affiliate or subcontractor, with any employee of HCPS, members of the Board, investment managers/advisors, investment consultants, custodian, or plan recordkeepers must be disclosed. Any such relationship that might be perceived or represented as a conflict must be disclosed on Attachment D.

30.0 ORDER OF PRECEDENCE

In the event of an inconsistency among provisions of this Request for Proposal, the inconsistency shall be resolved by the following order of precedence:

- 30.1 Performance Work Statement

- 30.2 Specifications/Terms of the Request for Proposal
- 30.3 General Terms and Conditions for Request for Proposal

31.0 IT ACCESSIBILITY PROGRAM

- 31.1 Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act (29 U.S.C. 794d), as amended in 1998, is a federal law that requires agencies to provide individuals with disabilities equal access to electronic information and data comparable to those who do not have disabilities, unless an undue burden would be imposed on the agency. The Section 508 standards are the technical requirements and criteria that are used to measure conformance within this law. More information on Section 508 and the technical standards can be found at www.section508.gov.
- 31.2 Section 508 requires agencies, during the procurement, development, maintenance, or use of ICT, to ensure that individuals with disabilities have access to and use of ICT information and data comparable to the access and use afforded to individuals without disabilities (i.e., "ICT accessibility"), unless an undue burden would be imposed on the agency. The Section 508 standards are the technical requirements and criteria that are used to measure conformance with the law and incorporate the W3C Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG) 2.2.

32.0 TECHNOLOGY-BASED INSTRUCTIONAL PRODUCTS

- 32.1 HCPS is committed to ensuring that digital technology (hardware, instructional software, online resources, and computer-based equipment) is accessible to individuals with disabilities. The Vendor guarantees that all digital tools supplied under this contract meet the accessibility requirements of the Web Content Accessibility Guidelines ("WCAG") 2.2 Level AA and conform to the most recent Section 508 standards for information technology accessibility under the federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973. "Digital tool" is defined pursuant to Md. Code Ann., Educ., § 7-910.
- 32.2 All online platforms must conform to the guidelines for accessibility as set forth in the WCAG version 2.2 [W3C WCAG 2.2 Now Available](#) (minimum Level AA conformance). HCPS will only consider vendors whose products conform to these standards. Conformance to the specified standards can be documented through the submission of an up-to-date, complete, and accurate Accessibility Conformance Report (ACR). The ACR must address the leading ICT accessibility standards: Section 508 (U.S.), EN 301 549 (EU), and W3C/WAI WCAG. The ACR must include the latest version of the [Voluntary Product Accessibility Template](#) (VPAT®), which can be obtained from the Information Technology Industry Council (ITI) website (<https://www.itic.org/>).
- 32.3 For digital tools, vendors are required to submit an accessibility conformance report that includes a Voluntary Product Accessibility Template for any invitation for bids, requests for proposals, procurement contracts, grants, or modifications to contracts or grants. The accessibility conformance report must explain how information and communication technology products, including software, electronic content, and support documentation, conform to the most recent ICT accessibility standards: Section 508 (U.S.), EN 301 549 (EU), and W3C/WAI WCAG. The instructions and the required forms can be found at the General Services Administration (GSA) Section 508 website at <https://www.section508.gov/sell/how-to-create-acr-with-vpat/>.

32.4 Vendor Notice of Equivalent Access Standards

In accordance with Md. Code Ann., Educ., § 7-910, "equivalent access" includes the ability to receive, use, and manipulate information and operate controls necessary to access and use information technology, including by nonvisual means, so that a student with disabilities can access the same services as a student without disabilities with substantially equivalent ease of use.

"Equivalent access" includes:

1. Keyboard controls used for input and synthesized speech;
2. Braille; and
3. Other audible or tactile means used for output.

“Nonvisual access” means the ability to receive, use, and manipulate information and operate controls necessary to access information and communications technology through keyboard controls, synthesized speech, braille, or other methods not requiring sight.

32.5 Accessibility Indemnification and Guarantees

- 32.5.1 The Vendor agrees to indemnify and hold harmless HCPS from any costs, expenses, liabilities, or obligations arising from accessibility-related issues involving the digital tools provided under this contract. This indemnification includes the defense of any legal action or proceedings alleging non-compliance with federal or State of Maryland accessibility laws and regulations and payment of any resulting liabilities. This clause will survive the termination of the contract.
- 32.5.2 Vendors failing to meet the equivalent access standards established under Subsection (a)(2) of Section 508 of the federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973 or WCAG 2.2 Level AA may face civil penalties set forth in Md. Code Ann., Educ., § 7-910.
- 32.5.3 For all technology based instructional products, online platforms, and digital tools, Vendors must maintain and improve their digital accessibility in compliance with evolving standards and best practices. Vendors will provide a listing of timelines for expected improvements to the programs. Vendors will establish a mechanism for users to report accessibility issues and ensure prompt resolution of reported problems.

32.6 Third-Party Technology

The Vendor acknowledges that supplying third-party technology does not exempt the Vendor from ensuring product compliance with this clause. The Vendor bears sole responsibility for determining the accessibility of such technology and must ensure that it can be edited or remediated as necessary to comply with accessibility standards.

33.0 FORCE MAJEURE

- 33.1 A party shall not be liable for any failure of or delay in the performance of this agreement for the period that such failure or delay is beyond the reasonable control of a party, materially affects the performance of any of its obligations under this agreement, and could not reasonably have been foreseen or provided against, but will not be excused for failure or delay resulting from only general economic conditions or other general market effects.
- 33.2 The list of events to be included is a matter of negotiation between the parties. Such causes may include, but are not limited to, acts of God, nature or the public enemy, terrorism, invasion, insurrection, order of court, judge, or civil authority, strike, stoppage of labor, riot, and unusually severe weather, significant fires, floods, earthquakes, storms, epidemics, pandemics, quarantine restrictions, strikes, freight embargos, government regulation, or governmental authorities, and delays which are not caused by any act or omission.
- 33.3 If either party is delayed by force majeure, the time of contract completion may be extended by contract modification, for a period of time equal to that delay caused under this condition. HCPS may also consider requests for price increase for raw materials that are directly attributable to the cause of delay. HCPS reserves the right to cancel the contract and/or purchase materials, equipment, or services from the best available source during the time of force majeure, and Contractor shall have no recourse against HCPS. Further, except for payment of sums due, neither party shall be liable to the other or deemed in default under this contract, if and to the extent that such party's performance of this contract is prevented by reason of force majeure as defined herein.

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

#24-DS-023

Pet Insurance

1. PURPOSE

- 1.1 Harford County Public Schools (herein referred to as the Board or HCPS) is issuing this Request for Proposal (RFP) for the purpose of soliciting proposals from eligible responders to administer a Pet Insurance Program (hereafter referred to as "Program"), as a voluntary benefit, to its employees and retirees.
- 1.2 It is the intent of these specifications to provide prospective offeror(s) with complete information relative to this Request for Proposal. Offerors are obligated to read and understand all parts of this RFP and to obtain clarification of any part not thoroughly understood.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 HCPS is Maryland public school system providing education services to Harford County, Maryland residents.
- 2.2 HCPS employs over 5,000 individuals and provides continued insurance coverage to over 3,000 retired employees.
- 2.3 HCPS does not currently offer pet insurance as a voluntary benefit.
- 2.4 HCPS benefits plan year is July 1 – June 30, with off cycle enrollments for newly benefit-eligible and new employees.
- 2.5 Employees and retirees who elect this coverage will pay the entire cost of the premium.

3. SCOPE OF SERVICES

- 3.1 Respondents are required to provide Pet Insurance nationwide.
- 3.2 Ideally, the Program should cover examinations, vaccinations, injuries, illnesses, pre-existing conditions, congenital conditions, hereditary conditions, medications, surgeries, and catastrophic events throughout a pet's lifetime.
- 3.3 Respondents will be required to provide annual enrollment materials and be available to present, in person and virtually, during all open enrollment meetings held annually in May.
- 3.4 Respondents will be required to attend new hire orientation vendor fairs and other employee benefits fairs throughout the year as appropriate, to assist in promoting the Program.
- 3.5 Respondents must be able to provide a local or toll-free phone number, staffed by customer service representatives, to assist plan participants.
 - 3.5.1 The representatives will be able to advise prospective participants about each plan to best meet the needs of their pet(s).
 - 3.5.2 The representatives will be able to provide participants or prospective participants with names, addresses, and phone numbers of nearby in-network veterinarians and veterinary hospitals.
- 3.6 Respondents will need to provide a website that offers all users information regarding the Program.

- 3.7 Respondents will provide at least one designated plan administrator or account manager who will be a direct resource to HCPS Benefits Office staff members to assist with preparing for open enrollment materials, enrollment verification, contract-related issues, and complaints, as needed.
- 3.8 Respondents must be able to accept electronic enrollment records through Oracle.

4. **SCHEDULE OF ACTIVITIES**

Date	Description
April 17, 2024	RFP Issued
May 7, 2024	Pre-Proposal Meeting – Via Teams (link provided on cover page)
May 21, 2024	Question Deadline – due before 12:00 PM (EST)
May 30, 2024	Addenda released (if necessary)
June 20, 2024	Submittals Due before 12:00 PM (EST)
June 21 – June 28, 2024	Review of Requirements
July 2024	Committee to Evaluate Submittals
August 8, 2024	Evaluation Committee Consensus Meeting
August 28th & 29 th 2024	Interviews/Presentations (if applicable)
August 30, 2024	Selection Committee Recommendation
October 2024	Board Approval of Contract (if applicable)

*Note: The above dates are proposed and subject to change.

5. **RESPONDENT REQUIREMENTS**

- 5.1 HCPS requires that participating respondents have at least five (5) years of experience in providing Program services to organizations of 5,000 or more employees. All respondents **SHALL SUBMIT** the number of years providing this type of service under the current business name and contact name on company letterhead. Respondent(s) who cannot demonstrate to the satisfaction of HCPS that they have had similar experiences or fail to provide this documentation may deem your proposal non-responsive.
- 5.2 Respondents must have a national network of veterinarians and veterinarian hospitals with an extensive network in Harford County, MD, and surrounding counties, or an equivalent reimbursement system that provides nationwide coverage for veterinarians and veterinarian hospitals. Failure to provide this information may deem your proposal non-responsive.
- 5.3 Respondents must at least provide insurance coverage for dogs and cats. Coverage for exotic animals is preferred. Examples of exotic animals include, but are not limited to, birds, reptiles, and rabbits. Failure to provide coverage for dogs and cats will deem your proposal non-responsive.
- 5.4 All respondents must be considered in “Good Standing” (all fees, taxes, and penalties owed to Maryland are paid). Visit the following website to ensure compliance: (HCPS bears no responsibility for accuracy, legality, or content of the external site or for that of subsequent links. Contact the external site for answers to questions regarding its content). Any respondent not considered in “Good Standing” may be deemed non-responsive.
- 5.5 All respondents must not have any “Exclusions” (respondent cannot be debarred or suspended). If the indicator box is “green” and states “Entity” this vendor is not suspended or debarred. If a respondent’s name does not appear after searching, the respondent does not have an “Exclusion.” Visit the following website to ensure compliance: <https://sam.gov/SAM/pages/public/index.jsf> (HCPS bears no responsibility for accuracy, legality, or content of the external site or for that of subsequent links. Contact the external site for answers to questions regarding its content). If the indicator box is “purple” and states “Exclusion” the respondent may be deemed non-responsive.

- 5.6 Respondent shall furnish to HCPS any requested information and data/documentation. HCPS reserves the right to reject any proposal if the information or documentation submitted by the respondent or investigation of such respondent fails to satisfy HCPS that such respondent is properly qualified to carry out the obligations of the Contract and to complete all requirements contemplated therein.

6. **SPECIAL CONDITIONS**

This is an Indefinite Delivery/Indefinite Quantities (IDIQ) Contract. The services requested are pending allocation of funds and approval of award by the Board of Education of Harford County. HCPS reserves the right to order services as may be required during the Contract period and reserves the right not to authorize/order any services.

7. **AWARD**

- 7.1 Harford County Public Schools intends to award a contract to the lowest responsive and responsible offeror whose proposal complies with all the provisions of the RFP and the stated criteria, subject to the availability of funding and bringing the best value and is deemed to be in the best interest of Harford County Public Schools.
- 7.2 HCPS may reject any proposal which contains omissions, altered forms, additions, or imposes conditions or offers alternate items. HCPS may make any award which is deemed in the best interest of Harford County Public Schools or make no award at all, at its sole discretion.
- 7.3 HCPS reserves the right to reject any proposal if the evidence submitted by an offeror, or from the investigation of such offeror, fails to satisfy HCPS that such offeror is qualified to fulfil the obligations of the contract.
- 7.4 In the event the Awarded Offeror(s) cannot deliver the services of the Contract in accordance with the specifications, HCPS reserves the right to purchase the services on the open market to assure the continued operation of HCPS.
- 7.5 HCPS reserves the right to add similar or related services to the resulting contract. HCPS and the firm will agree to the services and fees being added. Contract Amendments will be issued for all additions and must be signed by both parties.
- 7.6 The Contract will be awarded to the firm complying with all the provisions of the RFP and the stated criteria, subject to the availability of funding and provided it is in the best interest of Harford County Public Schools to award the Contract.
- 7.7 HCPS reserves the right to make multiple awards, if it is in its best interest to do so.

8. **CONTRACT TERM**

- 8.1 The initial term of this contract shall be for one (1) year and shall begin on or about **July 1, 2025** through **June 30, 2026**.
- 8.2 Harford County Public Schools reserves the right, if mutually agreed upon, to renew this contract under the same terms and conditions for four (4) additional, one (1) year periods.

9. **RFP CLOSING DATE**

Proposals must be received by the email inbox (bids@hcps.org) no later than **12:00 pm, local time, on June 20, 2024**. Proposals received after this time will not be considered. Proposals may not be modified after the RFP closing date and time.

10. **DELIVERY OF PROPOSALS**

All proposals shall be emailed to bids@hcps.org. Mark the subject line – **RFP#24-DS-023 Pet Insurance**. Only electronic submittals will be accepted. It is the Offeror's responsibility to verify that the Proposal has been received, prior to the due date. 'Read Receipts' are not sufficient. Offeror(s) may contact the RFP Coordinator listed within the solicitation, by email or phone, to confirm receipt of the proposal.

11. **RESPONDENTS RESPONSIBILITIES**

- 11.1 The Respondent understands the RFP in its entirety and that the proposal is made in accordance therewith, and;
- 11.2 The Respondent possesses the capabilities, resources, and personnel necessary to provide efficient and successful service to the HCPS, and;
- 11.3 Prior to submitting a proposal, each Respondent shall make all investigations and examinations necessary to ascertain site and/or local conditions and requirements affecting the full performance of the contract and to verify any representations made by HCPS, upon which the respondent will rely. If the respondent receives an award based on its proposal submission, failure to have made such investigations and examinations will in no way relieve the respondent from its obligations to comply in every detail with all provisions and requirements of the contract, nor will a plea of ignorance of such conditions and requirements be accepted as a basis for any claim by the respondent for additional compensation or relief, and;
- 11.4 The Respondent will be held responsible for any and all discrepancies, errors, misstatements, etc. in discounts or rebates which are discovered during the contract term or up to and including five (5) fiscal years following HCPS's annual audit, including five (5) years thereafter.

12. **PRE-PROPOSAL CONFERENCE**

A pre-proposal conference will be held on-line via Teams for this Request for Proposal on **May 7, 2023**, at **10:00 a.m. local time**, at the link stated on the cover page. **Potential Offerors are strongly encouraged to attend.**

13. **PROPOSAL FORMAT: TWO-PART SUBMISSION**

- 13.1 Offerors shall email their Proposal to bids@hcps.org, in PDF format in SEPARATE e-mails as the following:
 - 13.1.1 **Volume I** – Technical Proposal
 - 13.1.2 **Volume II** – Cost Proposal
- 13.2 Each e-mail shall include the following information in the body of the email:
 - 13.2.1 The Offeror's name, business address, and contact information.
 - 13.2.2 The due date/time for receipt of proposals.
- 13.3 The title of the RFP and RFP number (**#24-DS-023 Pet Insurance**)
- 13.4 See **Section 19: Submittal Requirements** for complete details.
- 13.5 If confidential materials are submitted, respondents are requested to submit **one (1)** additional electronic copy of their submittal for the purposes of Freedom of Information Requests. The redacted electronic copy shall be marked "**Redacted Copy.**" It is understood that this copy may be made available to any requesting party without prior consent or approval from the originator. Blanket requests for the entire proposal to be held confidential will not be considered.

14. **QUESTIONS**

Questions concerning any portion of this RFP shall be directed by e-mail to Denise Semenkow at Denise.Semenkow@hcps.org, who shall be the official point of contact for this RFP. Questions should be submitted by the date and time listed on the coversheet.

15. **INSURANCE REQUIREMENTS**

The Provider shall not commence any operations or services on behalf of the Board of Education of Harford County (the Board) under this Contract until the Provider has obtained at the Provider's own expense all of the insurance as required hereunder and such insurance has been approved by the Board. Approval of insurance required of the Provider will be granted only after submission to the Board of original certificates of insurance signed by authorized representatives of the insurers or, at the Board's request, certified copies of the required insurance policies. See Attachment B for details.

16. **PRESENTATIONS BY RESPONDENTS**

- 16.1 HCPS, at its sole discretion, may ask individual respondents to make oral presentations, informal telephone interviews and/or demonstrations without charge to HCPS.
- 16.2 HCPS reserves the right to require any respondent to demonstrate, to the satisfaction of HCPS, that the respondent has the fiscal and managerial abilities to properly furnish the services proposed and required to fulfill the contract. The demonstration must satisfy the Board and the Board shall be the sole judge of compliance.
- 16.3 Respondents are cautioned not to assume that presentations will be required and should include all pertinent and required information in their original proposal package.
- 16.4 It is HCPS' intent to award a contract to the respondent deemed most advantageous to HCPS in accordance with the evaluation criteria specified elsewhere in this RFP. The Board reserves the right, however, to conduct post-presentation discussions with any respondent who has a realistic possibility of contract award including, but not limited to: request for additional information, competitive negotiations, and further best-and-final offers.
- 16.5 Dates for presentations have been listed in Section 4. Schedule of Activities, although these dates are subject to change, these dates have been selected based on the schedules of the evaluation committee members and will not be modified/changed to accommodate the schedules of the Offerors.

17. **PROPOSAL EVALUATION PROCESS**

- 17.1 Proposals submitted shall be received and reviewed by the Procurement Agent.
- 17.2 A preliminary evaluation by the Procurement Agent shall determine whether each received proposal is complete and compliant with all the instructions and/or submittal requirements of the RFP. Any proposals that are incomplete or that do not comply with the instructions and/or submittal terms and conditions may be rejected and excluded from further consideration.
- 17.3 Technical proposals meeting all minimum requirements will be distributed to the evaluation committee for review and evaluation. The committee will then convene to discuss, and scores will be tallied for each criterion.
- 17.4 After the technical score for each proposal has been established, the evaluation committee will determine if presentations or interviews will be required. Firms with technical scores falling below acceptable standards will be eliminated from the remainder of the RFP process.
- 17.5 HCPS will use a point formula to score the cost proposals. The maximum score for the cost proposal will be assigned to the firm offering the lowest combined total. Appropriate fractional scores will be assigned to the other cost proposals.

- 17.6 HCPS may enter into cost and/or terms and conditions negotiations with the highest-ranking firm. If HCPS and the firm cannot agree upon cost or terms, HCPS may negotiate with the next highest ranked firm. This process will be continued until a fair and reasonably priced contract can be awarded.
- 17.7 During the evaluation, HCPS will consider the Offeror's record and performance of any prior contracts with HCPS or other public bodies, including but not limited to the Offeror's providing similar programs/services to HCPS, other schools, school districts, or other governmental agencies. HCPS reserves the right to reject the proposal of any Offeror if the investigation discloses that the Offeror, in HCPS' opinion, has not properly performed such prior contracts or has habitually and without just cause neglected the payment of bills or has otherwise disregarded its obligations to subcontractors or employees.
- 17.8 HCPS may make such investigations as deemed necessary to determine the ability of an offeror to provide the services as specified herein. HCPS may request additional information about, or clarification of any proposals submitted.
- 17.9 HCPS reserves the right to clarify information submitted in a proposal to determine whether an error has been made or whether a waiver of formality, informality or technicality is appropriate. Firms shall furnish HCPS with all such information and data necessary for HCPS to determine if the proposal is responsible and responsive to the HCPS' requirements as stated herein.

18. **SCORING**

- 18.1 An adjectival scoring system shall be applied throughout the evaluation process for the evaluation of the technical proposals and the oral presentation/informal interviews. A score of 0 is the least favorable and a score of 5 is the most favorable in all sections.
- 18.2 The Respondent's response will be scored by committee members in accordance with the following scale:
 - 0 = Unresponsive: Failed to respond to the request
 - 1 = Poor: Responsive to the request but expectations are NOT met
 - 2 = Marginal: Responsive to the request but below acceptable standards
 - 3 = Acceptable: Minimal acceptable performance standards and responsive to the request
 - 4 = Good: Above minimum performance, effective and responsive to the request
 - 5 = Excellent: Exceeds expectations for effectiveness and responsiveness to the request

19. **SUBMITTAL REQUIREMENTS**

When submitting a Technical Proposal, the following minimum information must be provided for proper evaluation by the selection committee. Your Technical Proposal should be thorough in all aspects for the selection committee to make a proper and complete evaluation of your capabilities and response. The purpose of the Technical Proposal is to demonstrate the qualifications, competency, and capacity of the Respondent in conformity with the requirements of this RFP. The Technical Proposal shall demonstrate the qualifications of the Respondent and the staff to be assigned to this contract.

The Technical Proposal shall address all the points outlined in the RFP (excluding any cost information which shall only be included in the Cost Proposal). The Technical Proposal shall be prepared simply and economically, providing a straightforward, concise description of the Respondent's capabilities to satisfy the RFP requirements.

Each proposal must include a submittal letter, table of contents, and all documentation requested in the Technical Proposal. The documents must be numbered consecutively from beginning to end and separated by tabs in the order described below. *Failure to submit these documents in this order may deem your proposal non-responsive.*

Respondents must refrain from using responses similar to, "Refer to our literature..." or "Please see www....com", these responses may deem a proposal non-responsive.

Note: No pricing information is to be included in the Technical Proposal. Pricing information is to be included only in the Cost Proposal.

19.1 Volume I: TECHNICAL PROPOSAL

19.1.1 Tab 1 – Respondent's Profile Letter and Executive Summary – (Weighted Value 10 Points)

Profile Letter, signed by an authorized agent of the respondent, including:

- Brief history of the respondent.
- How many years providing this type of service (needs to be at least five (5) years)
- Describe the respondents' experience specific to the services requested in this RFP.
- Provide a list of governmental agencies, corporations, and/or organizations, comparable in employee size of HCPS, which have retained the respondent to provide these services. Preference will be given to respondents who have school district experience.
- Provide the number, by county, of approved veterinarians and veterinary hospitals located in Harford, Baltimore and Cecil Counties in Maryland or identify if the Program uses a reimbursement system. You may attach a list of approved providers. Preference will be given to proposers who offer approved veterinarians and hospitals that are located in Harford County, MD.
- This section should highlight aspects of the respondent's proposal that make it superior or unique in addressing the needs of HCPS.

19.1.2 Tab 2 – Plan Design (Weighted Value 25 Points)

- Include a completed **Attachment A** (Plan Design Checklist) in this Tab.
- Describe additional Program benefits/coverages not listed within the RFP that would be of interest to HCPS.
- Provide a description of your most recommended plan with the highest enrollment, including:
 - All covered services and if services are fully covered or partially covered, provide details
 - Definition of services
 - Why this plan recommended
- Describe other plan options available.
- Identify what types of pets are eligible for coverage (dog, cat, avian, exotic).
- Identify and describe:
 - Waiting periods
 - Frequency limitations
 - Dollar limits (per incident, annual and/or lifetime)
 - Copays
 - Annual deductibles
 - Percentage of reimbursement
- Describe the process for submitting claims.
- Identify if your coverage(s) has pre-existing condition limitations and to which diseases and treatments they apply.
- Identify if prior approval for treatment is required. If prior approval is required, describe the process to obtain approval.
- Identify if there are any age limitations for obtaining coverage or for continued coverage.
- Identify if coverage reduces when a pet turns a certain age.
- Identify if there are any breed exclusions.
- Identify what conditions render a pet ineligible for coverage.
- Describe any aspects of the plan design that make it superior or unique in addressing the needs of HCPS.

19.1.3 Tab 3 – Plan Administration and Customer Support – (Weighted Value 25 Points)

- Provide professional biographies, including relevant experience, of the account management team assigned to oversee client services for HCPS.
- Identify how you would assist in minimizing the administrative burden of this program for HCPS.
- Identify if there is a minimum enrollment required. If so, provide further details.
- Identify whether there is a portability option for employees who separate from employment for reasons other than retirement. Explain the terms and conditions and whether there is a rate change for those individuals.
- Identify if treatment is in the process when an employee terminates or retires employment from HCPS, is treatment covered to completion? Identify any limitations related to ongoing care for this situation.
- Identify the problem resolution process and the average length of time in which complaints are resolved.
- Identify the services available when a participant calls the customer service center and whether customer service representatives can assist prospective participants with questions about pet insurance before enrollment in the Program.
- Identify how you will support the uniqueness of the school system to adequately reach teachers and staff with varying schedules.
- Describe any unique features/qualities of the plan administration and customer support that set your firm apart from other potential respondents.
- Provide samples of annual enrollment materials that might be provided to HCPS staff.

19.1.4 Tab 4 – References – (Weighted Value 10 Points)

Using the form included as Attachment G, provide the name, address, email address and phone numbers of three (3) current clients similar in size and with the scope of services requested, who can be contacted for references. One (1) of the three (3) references shall be a K-12 client, if available. (Preference will be given for school district clients)

The references will be verified by HCPS. HCPS will not be responsible for errors, non-working phone numbers, inaccurate email addresses, people no longer employed with the client or references who do not respond.

Failure to provide references may deem Proposer as non-responsible. HCPS reserves the right to request additional references.

19.1.5 Tab 5 – Exceptions to Terms and Conditions – (Non-Scored)

- Provide any exceptions to HCPS's General Terms and Conditions.
- Offerors must provide **any and all** documentation or agreements that you anticipate requesting HCPS to incorporate into the final agreement or sign as a result of this RFP award.
- Failure to indicate any exceptions shall be interpreted as the Offeror's intent to fully comply with all RFP terms and conditions as written.
- Terms and conditions differing from those in this RFP may be cause for disqualification of the proposal.

19.1.6 Tab 6 – Addenda – (Non-Scored)

Any addenda issued subsequent to the release of this solicitation must be signed and returned with the Firm's proposal. Failure to return signed addenda may be cause for the proposal to be considered non-responsive.

19.1.7 Tab 7 – Required Documents (Non-Scored)

- Attachment "A" Plan Design Checklist (Include in Tab 2 – This will be used as part of the evaluation process)

- Attachment “B” Insurance Requirements (Provide a sample certificate)
- Attachment “C” Debarment Certification (Completed and Signed)
- Attachment “D” Conflict of Interest Form (Completed and Signed)
- Attachment “E” Employment of Sex Offenders and Other Criminal Offenders Affidavit (Completed and Signed)
- Attachment “F” Anti-Bribery Affidavit (Completed and Signed)
- Attachment “G” References (Completed)
- Attachment “H” Signature Sheet (Completed and Signed)
- Attachment “I” Professional Services Agreement **Sample** (Final will be at time of award)

19.2 Volume II: COST PROPOSAL (Weighted Value 20 Points)

- 19.2.1 Using Attachment J, respondent shall provide the cost information submitted in a **SECOND EMAIL** with the subject line labeled as RFP #24-DS-023 – Cost Proposal.
- 19.2.2 Pricing on the Cost Proposal sheet should represent the cost of middle-tier insurance coverage for pets with no underlying health issues.
- 19.2.3 Premiums/rates must be guaranteed for all coverages, for the first 36-months (or up to 60-months). Thereafter, the premiums/rates must be guaranteed for each succeeding renewal period (12-months). Preference will be given to respondents guaranteeing premium/rates for 60 months.

Evaluation Criteria Matrix	Maximum Possible Points
Tab 1 – Profile Letter and Executive Summary	10
Tab 2 – Plan Design	25
Tab 3 – Plan Administration and Customer Support	25
Tab 4 – References	10
Cost Proposals	20
Combined Total	100

ATTACHMENT A

Plan Design Checklist

Type of Service or Coverage	Is this Available through the Program	Minimum Level or Buy-up Coverage Choice	Additional Comments
Annual Check-Up			
Vaccinations			
Injuries			
Illnesses			
Spaying/Neutering			
Telehealth Visits			
Pre-Existing Conditions			
Congenital Conditions			
Hereditary Conditions			
Dental Cleanings			
Medications			
Medical Supplies			
Alternative Medicine			
Prescription Pet Food			
X-rays and Diagnostic Tests			
Blood Tests			
Surgery (Elective and Emergency)			
Catastrophic Illness or Event			
Behavior Therapy			
Euthanasia			

ATTACHMENT B

Insurance Requirements

Harford County Public School System – Maryland

Insurance Requirements for Service/Consulting Contracts

1. General Insurance Requirements

- 1.1 The Consultant shall not commence any operations or services on behalf of the Board of Education of Harford County (the Board) under this Contract until the Consultant has obtained at the Consultant's own expense all of the insurance as required hereunder and such insurance has been approved by the Board. Approval of insurance required of the Consultant will be granted only after submission to the Board of original certificates of insurance signed by authorized representatives of the insurers or, at the Board's request, certified copies of the required insurance policies.
- 1.2 Insurance as required hereunder shall be in force throughout the term of the Contract. Original certificates signed by authorized representatives of the insurers or, at the Board's request, certified copies of insurance policies, evidencing that the required insurance is in effect, shall be maintained with the Board throughout the term of the Contract.
- 1.3 The Consultant shall require all Subcontractors to maintain during the term of the Contract insurance to the same extent required of the Consultant herein unless any such requirement is expressly waived or amended by the Board in writing. The Consultant shall furnish Subcontractors' certificates of insurance to the Board immediately upon request.
- 1.4 All insurance policies required hereunder shall be endorsed to provide that the policy is not subject to cancellation, non-renewal, or material reduction in coverage until sixty (60) days prior written notice has been given to the Board.

Therefore, the phrases "endeavor to" and "... but failure to mail such notice shall impose no obligation or liability of any kind upon the company, its agents or representatives" are to be eliminated from the cancellation provision of standard ACORD certificates of insurance.
- 1.5 No acceptance and/or approval of any insurance by the Board shall be construed as relieving or excusing the Consultant from any liability or obligation imposed upon the Consultant by the provisions of this Contract.
- 1.6 If the Consultant does not meet the insurance requirements of this Contract, the Consultant shall forward a written request to the Board for a waiver in writing of the insurance requirement(s) not met or approval in writing of alternate insurance coverage, self-insurance, or group self-insurance arrangements. If the Board denies the request, the Consultant must comply with the insurance requirements as specified in this Contract.
- 1.7 All required insurance coverages must be underwritten by insurers allowed to do business in the State of Maryland and acceptable to the Board. The insurers must also have a policyholders' rating of "A-" or better, and a financial size of "Class VII" or better in the latest evaluation by A. M. Best Company, unless the Board grants specific approval for an exception. The Board hereby grants specific approval for the acquisition of workers compensation and employers liability insurance from the Injured Workers Insurance Fund of Maryland.
- 1.8 Any deductibles or retentions in excess of \$10,000 shall be disclosed by the Consultant, and are subject to the Board's written approval. Any deductible or retention amounts elected by the Consultant or imposed by the Consultant's insurer(s) shall be the sole responsibility of the Consultant.

- 1.9 If the Board is damaged by the failure or neglect of the Consultant to purchase and maintain insurance as described and required herein, without so notifying the Board, then the Consultant shall bear all reasonable costs properly attributable thereto.

2. Consultant's Insurance

- 2.1 The Consultant shall purchase and maintain the following insurance coverages at not less than the limits specified below or required by law, whichever is greater:

- 2.1.1 Commercial general liability insurance or its equivalent for bodily injury, personal injury and property damage including loss of use, with minimum limits of:

\$1,000,000	Each Occurrence;
\$1,000,000	Personal and Adv Injury;
\$2,000,000	General Aggregate; and
\$1,000,000	Products/Completed Operations Aggregate

This insurance shall include coverage for all of the following:

- i. Liability arising from premises and operations;
- ii. Liability arising from the actions of independent contractors;
- iii. Contractual liability protection for the Consultant from bodily injury and property damage claims arising out of liability assumed under this Contract.

- 2.1.2 Business auto liability insurance or its equivalent with a minimum limit of \$1,000,000 per accident and including coverage for all of the following:

- i. Liability arising out of the ownership, maintenance, or use of any auto (if no owned autos, then hired and non-owned autos only); and
- ii. Automobile contractual liability.

- 2.1.3 If the Consultant has any employees, workers compensation insurance or its equivalent with statutory benefits as required by any state or Federal law, including standard "other states" coverage; employers liability insurance or its equivalent with minimum limits of:

\$100,000	Each accident for bodily injury by accident;
\$100,000	Each employee for bodily injury by disease; and
\$500,000	Policy limit for bodily injury by disease.

- 2.1.4 If the Consultant is an individual or sole proprietor operating without workers compensation coverage, personal health insurance or its equivalent is required

- 2.1.5 Umbrella excess liability or excess liability insurance or its equivalent with minimum limits of:

\$1,000,000	Per occurrence;
\$1,000,000	Aggregate for other than products/completed operations and auto liability; and
\$1,000,000	Products/completed operations aggregate.

And including all of the following coverages on the applicable schedule of underlying insurance:

- i. Commercial general liability;
- ii. Business auto liability; and
- iii. Employers liability

- 2.1.6 Professional liability (or errors or omissions liability) insurance or its equivalent with minimum limits of:

\$1,000,000	Each Claim or Wrongful Act; and
\$1,000,000	Annual Aggregate

- 2.1.7 The Board of Education of Harford County and its elected and appointed officials, officers, employees, and authorized volunteers shall be named as additional insureds on the Consultant's commercial general liability insurance with respect to liability arising out of the services provided under this Contract by Consultant.

Special Notes: ISO forms CG 2009 and CG 2010 entitled "Additional Insured – Owners, Lessees or Contractors – Scheduled Person or Organization" (previously Forms A and B respectively) are **NOT ACCEPTABLE**. ISO form CG 2026 entitle "Additional Insured – Designated Person or Organization" **or** a manuscript endorsement with the below wording is required.

"The Board of Education of Harford County and its elected and appointed officials, officers, employees and authorized volunteers are named as additional insureds on this commercial general liability insurance with respect to liability arising out of the services provided by the Named Insured under Contract:

_____ (Enter specific identifying information such as project name, Board's contract number and/or date of contract)."

- 2.3 Insurance or self-insurance provided to the Board of Education of Harford County and its elected and appointed officials, officers, employees, and authorized volunteers under any Consultant's liability insurance of self-insurance required herein, including, but not limited to, umbrella and excess liability or excess liability policies, shall apply separately to each insured against whom claim is made or suit is brought, except with respect to the limits of insurance or self-insurance. (Any cross suits or cross liability exclusion shall be deleted from Consultant's liability insurance policies required herein.)
- 2.4 Insurance or self-insurance provided to the Board of Education of Harford County and its elected and appointed officials, officers, employees and authorized volunteers as specified herein shall be primary, and any other insurance, self-insurance, coverage or indemnity available to the Board and its elected and appointed officials, officers, employees and authorized volunteers shall be excess of and non-contributory with insurance of self-insurance provided to the Board and its elected and appointed officials, officers, employees and authorized volunteers as specified herein.
- 2.5 If any liability insurance purchased by the Consultant has been issued on a "claims made" basis, the Consultant must comply with the following additional conditions:
- 2.5.1 The Consultant shall agree to provide certificates of insurance evidencing the above coverages for a period of two years after final payment by the Board under this Contract. Such certificates shall evidence a retroactive date no later than the inception date of this Contract; or
- 2.5.2 The Consultant shall purchase an extended (minimum two years) reporting period endorsement for each such "claims made" policy in force as of the expiration or termination date of this Contract and evidence the purchase of this extended reporting period endorsement by means of a certificate of insurance or a copy of the endorsement itself. Such certificate or copy of the endorsement shall evidence a retroactive date no later than the inception date of this Contract.

3. **Indemnification**

To the fullest extent permitted by law, Consultant agrees to defend, indemnify, pay on behalf of and save harmless the Board of Education of Harford County, its elected and appointed officials, agents, employees and authorized volunteers against any and all claims, liability, demands, suits or loss, including attorneys' fees and all other costs connected therewith, arising out of or connected to the services provided by Consultant under this Contract.

4. **Waiver of Subrogation**

To the fullest extent permitted by law, the Consultant and its invitees, employees, officials, volunteers, agents, and representatives waive any right of recovery against the Board of Education of Harford County for any and all claims, liability, loss, damage, costs or expense (including attorneys' fees) arising out of the services provided by Consultant under this Contract. Consultant specifically waives any right of recovery against the Board and its elected and appointed officials, officers, volunteers, agents, and employees for personal injury (and any resulting loss of income) suffered while working on behalf of the Board as an independent contractor. Such waiver shall apply regardless of the cause of origin of the injury, loss, or damage, including the negligence of the Board and its elected and appointed officials, officers, volunteers, agents, and employees. The Consultant shall advise its insurers of the foregoing.

5. **Acknowledgment of Consultant's Independent Contractor Status and no Coverage For Consultant Under Board's Workers Compensation Coverage**

Consultant hereby acknowledges its status as an independent contractor while performing services on behalf of the Board and that the Board's workers compensation coverage or self-insurance is not intended to and will not respond to cover any medical or indemnity loss arising out of injury to the Consultant or its employees during the Consultant's performance of services for the Board. To the fullest extent permitted by law, the Consultant specifically waives any right of recovery against the Board and its elected and appointed officials, officers, volunteers, agents, and employees for personal injury (and any resulting loss of income) suffered during the performance of services as an independent contractor for the Board. Such waiver shall apply regardless of the cause of original of the injury, loss or damage, including the negligence of the Board and its elected and appointed officials, officers, volunteers, agents and employees. The Consultant shall advise its insurers of the foregoing.

6. **Damage To Property of The Consultant And Its Invitees**

To the fullest extent permitted by law, the Consultant shall be solely responsible for any loss or damage to property of the Consultant or its invitees, employees, officials, volunteers, agents, and representatives while such property is on, at or adjacent to the premises of the Board.

ATTACHMENT C
DEBARMENT CERTIFICATION

HARFORD COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Sean W. Bulson, Ed.D., Superintendent

102 S. Hickory Ave, Bel Air, Maryland 21014

**CERTIFICATION REGARDING U.S. GOVERNMENT
DEBARMENT, SUSPENSION, INELIGIBILITY, AND VOLUNTARY EXCLUSION**

This certification is required by the regulations implementing Executive Order 12549, Debarment and Suspension, 34 CFR, part 85, Section 85.510, Participants' responsibilities. The regulations were published as Part VII of the May 26, 1988, Federal Register (pages 19160-19211).

- (1) The prospective participant certifies, by submission of this proposal, that neither it nor its principals are presently debarred, suspended, proposed for debarment, declared ineligible, or voluntarily excluded from participation in this transaction by any Federal department or agency.
- (2) Where the prospective participant is unable to certify to any of the statements in this certification, such prospective participant shall attach an explanation to this proposal.

Name and Title of Authorized Agency/Organization Representative

Signature

Date

Agency/Organization

*Above certification instituted by the U. S. Department of Education for all grantees and subgrantees as of fiscal year 1990.

ATTACHMENT D
CONFLICT OF INTEREST AFFIDAVIT AND DISCLOSURE

- (a) The Contractor warrants that, to the best of the Contractor's knowledge and belief, there are no relevant facts or circumstances which could give rise to a conflict of interest.
- (b) Prior to commencement of any work, the Contractor agrees to notify the Procurement Agent immediately that, to the best of its knowledge and belief, no actual or potential conflict of interest exists or to identify to the buyer any actual or potential conflict of interest the Contractor may have.
- (c) The Contractor agrees that if an actual or potential conflict of interest is identified during performance, the Contractor will immediately make a full disclosure in writing to the Procurement Agent. This disclosure shall include a description of actions which the Contractor has taken or proposes to take, after consultation with the Procurement Agent, to avoid, mitigate, or neutralize the actual or potential conflict of interest. The Contractor shall continue performance until notified by the Procurement Agent of any contrary action to be taken.
- (d) Remedies - The Board may terminate this contract for convenience, in whole or in part, if it deems such termination necessary to avoid a conflict of interest. If the Contractor was aware of a potential conflict of interest prior to award or discovered an actual or potential conflict after award and did not disclose it or misrepresented relevant information to the Procurement Agent, the Board may terminate the contract for default, suspend the Contractor from further Board contracts, or pursue such other remedies as may be permitted by law or this contract.
- (e) The Contractor agrees to insert in each subcontract placed hereunder, provisions which shall conform substantially to the language of this affidavit.

I DO SOLEMNLY DECLARE AND AFFIRM UNDER THE PENALTIES OF PERJURY THAT THE CONTENTS OF THIS AFFIDAVIT ARE TRUE AND CORRECT TO THE BEST OF MY KNOWLEDGE, INFORMATION, AND BELIEF.

Date: _____

By: _____ (printed name of Authorized Representative and affiant)

_____ (signature of Authorized Representative and affiant)

_____ (Company Name)

ATTACHMENT E
EMPLOYMENT of SEX OFFENDERS AND OTHER CRIMINAL OFFENDERS AFFIDAVIT

HARFORD COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
EMPLOYMENT OF SEX OFFENDERS AND OTHER CRIMINAL OFFENDERS AFFIDAVIT

I AFFIRM THAT:

I am aware of, and the business listed below will comply with, the following requirements of Section §11-722 of the Criminal Procedure Article, and Section §6-113 of the Education Article, Annotated Code of Maryland:

- A. Maryland Law requires sex offenders to register with the State and with the local law enforcement agency in the county in which they will reside, work, or attend school. An HCPS contractor agrees and acknowledges that it/he/she is prohibited from knowingly employing an individual to work at a school if the individual is registered as a sex offender pursuant to Section §11-704 of the Criminal Procedures Article of Maryland Code.
- B. An HCPS contractor or subcontractor may not knowingly assign an employee to work on school premises with direct, unsupervised, and uncontrolled access to children, if the employee has been convicted of:
 - 1) Section §3-307 of the Criminal Law Article, Maryland Annotated Code, *Sexual Offense in the Third Degree*;
 - 2) Section §3-308 of the Criminal Law Article, Maryland Annotated Code, *Sexual Offense in the Fourth Degree*;
 - 3) An offense under the laws of another state that would constitute a violation of Sections §3-307 or §3-308 of the Criminal Law Article if committed in Maryland;
 - 4) Child sexual abuse under Section §3-602 of the Criminal Law Article, Annotated Code of Maryland;
 - 5) An offense under the laws of another state that would constitute child sexual abuse under Section §3-602 of the Criminal Law Article if committed in Maryland;
 - 6) A crime of violence as defined in Section §14-101 of the Criminal Law Article, Annotated Code of Maryland; or
 - 7) An offense under the laws of another state that would constitute a crime of violence under Section §14-101 of the Criminal Law Article if committed in Maryland.
 - 8) Contractors shall comply with the requirements of House Bill 486 passed by the General Assembly in 2019, regarding screening of applicants for employment.
 - a. Effective July 1, 2019
 - b. MSDE Guidance for House Bill 486 – Child Sexual and Sexual Misconduct Prevention) can be found online at www.marylandpublicschools.org.
 - c. Submission of Section 000325 Contract Affidavit (HB 486/SB 541 Compliance) is required to be submitted prior to award of contract.

See Section §6-113 of the Education Article, Annotated Code of Maryland

Violations of any of these provisions may result in Termination for Cause.

I AFFIRM UNDER THE PENALTIES OF PERJURY THAT THE CONTENTS OF THIS AFFIDAVIT ARE TRUE AND CORRECT TO THE BEST OF MY KNOWLEDGE, INFORMATION, AND BELIEF.

Date: _____

By: _____ (printed name of Authorized Representative and affiant)

_____ (signature of Authorized Representative and affiant)

_____ (Company Name)

ATTACHMENT F
ANTI-BRIBERY AFFIDAVIT

HARFORD COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Sean W. Bulson, Ed.D., Superintendent

102 S. Hickory Ave, Bel Air, Maryland 21014

STATE OF MARYLAND ANTI-BRIBERY AFFIDAVIT

I HEREBY CERTIFY that:

1. I am the _____ and the duly authorized representative of the firm of _____ whose address is _____ and that I possess the legal authority to make this affidavit on behalf of myself and the firm for which I am acting.
2. Except as described in paragraph 3 below, neither I, nor to the best of my knowledge, the above firm, nor any of its officers, directors or partners, or any of its employees directly involved in obtaining contracts with the State or any county, bi-county, or multi-county agency, or subdivision of the State have been convicted of, or have pleaded nolo contendere to a charge of, or have during the course of an official investigation or other proceeding admitted in writing or under oath acts or omissions committed, which constitute bribery, attempted bribery, or conspiracy to bribe under the provisions of Section 9-201 in the Criminal Law Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland or under the laws of any state or federal government.
3. (State "none" or, as appropriate, list any conviction, plea, or admission described in paragraph 2 above, with the date; court, official, or administrative body; and the sentence or disposition, if any.

I acknowledge that this affidavit is to be furnished to the requesting agency, and where appropriate, to the Board of Public Works and the Attorney General under §16-202, S.F. of the Annotated Code of Maryland. I acknowledge that, if the representations set forth in this affidavit are not true and correct, Harford County Public Schools may terminate any contract awarded and take any other appropriate action. I further acknowledge that I am executing this affidavit in compliance with §16-203, S.F. of the Annotated Code of Maryland, which provides that certain persons who have been convicted of or have admitted to bribery, attempted bribery, or conspiracy to bribe may be disqualified, either by operation of law or after a hearing, from entering into contracts with the State or any of its agencies or subdivisions.

I do solemnly declare and affirm under the penalties of perjury that the contents of this affidavit are true and correct.

Signature

Witness

Date

ATTACHMENT G

REFERENCES

1. Client Name

Email Address

Contact Person

Telephone Number

Nature of Engagement

Date Completed/Year Covered

2. Client Name

Email Address

Contact Person

Telephone Number

Nature of Engagement

Date Completed/Year Covered

3. Client Name

Email Address

Contact Person

Telephone Number

Nature of Engagement

Date Completed/Year Covered

ATTACHMENT H

SIGNATURE SHEET (To be submitted with Technical Proposal)

I/We agree to provide the services in accordance with the accompanying requirements and all conditions, provisions, attachments, and any addenda to this RFP.

_____ Company	_____ Authorized Representative (print)
_____ Address	_____ Signature
_____ Address, continued	_____ Title (print)
_____ Name of Firm's Contract Administrator	_____ Phone Number of Authorized Representative
_____ Phone Number of Firm's Contract Administrator	_____ E-mail Address of Authorized Representative
_____ E-mail Address of Firm's Contract Administrator	_____ Federal I.D. Number

Acknowledgement of Addenda (if issued)

I/We acknowledge receipt of the following Addenda:

No. _____, Dated _____
No. _____, Dated _____
No. _____, Dated _____

ATTACHMENT I

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AGREEMENT SAMPLE



This Professional Services Agreement (the "Agreement"), effective as of _____ ("Effective Date"), is entered into by and between Harford County Public Schools (HCPS) having its principal place of business at 102 S. Hickory Ave., Bel Air, MD 21014, and _____ having its principal place of business at _____ ("Provider"). In mutual consideration of the mutual promises set forth in this Agreement, the parties agree as follows:

1. SERVICES

Scope of Services. Subject to the terms and conditions of this Agreement and the terms and conditions of **RFP #24-DS-023**. The Provider will perform those professional services as set forth and attached and as amended and/or supplemented from time to time by the mutual written agreement of the parties and incorporated herein by reference. At a minimum, a written document that (i) references this Agreement, (ii) describes the Services to be performed (iii) specifies the corresponding rate schedule or other fee information, and (iv) is signed by both parties or is issued by one party and signed by the other party. The Provider will use commercially reasonable efforts to complete the Services by the applicable dates set forth in the attachment ("Target Dates").

2. REMEDIES AND TERMINATION

2.1 Correction of Errors, Defects, and Omissions – The Provider agrees to perform work as may be necessary to correct errors, defects, and omissions in the services required under this agreement without undue delays and without cost to HCPS. The acceptance of the work set forth herein by HCPS shall not relieve the Provider of the responsibility.

2.1.1 Set-Off – HCPS may deduct from and set-off against any amounts due and payable to the Provider any back-charges or damages sustained by HCPS by virtue of any breach of this agreement by the Provider to perform the services or any part of the services in a satisfactory manner. Nothing herein shall limit the liability of the Provider for damages and HCPS may affirmatively collect damages from the Provider.

2.2 Termination for Default

2.2.1 If the Provider fails to fulfill its obligations under this Agreement properly and on time, otherwise violates any provision of the Agreement, HCPS may terminate the Agreement by written notice to the Provider. The notice shall specify the acts of omissions relied on as cause for termination.

2.2.2 All finished or unfinished supplies and services provided by the Provider, shall at HCPS' option, become HCPS property. HCPS shall pay the Provider fair and equitable compensation for satisfactory performance prior to receipt of Notice of Termination, less the amount of damages caused by Provider's breach.

2.2.3 If the damages are more than the compensation payable to the Provider, the Provider will remain liable after termination and HCPS can affirmatively collect damages.

2.3 Termination for Convenience – HCPS may terminate all or part of the work required under this Agreement for the convenience of HCPS with a thirty (30) day notification. In the event of such termination, the Agreement Administrator shall determine the costs the Provider has incurred to the date of termination and such reasonable costs associated with the termination. HCPS shall pay such costs as determined by the Agreement Administrator to the Provider together with reasonable profit reasonably earned by the Provider to the time of termination but not to include any profit not earned as of the date of termination.

2.4 Obligations of Provider upon Termination – Upon Notice of Termination, the Provider shall:

2.4.1 Take immediate action to orderly discontinue its work and demobilize its work force to minimize the occurrence of costs.

- 2.4.2 Take such action as may be necessary to protect the property of HCPS, place no further orders or sub Agreement, assign to HCPS in the manner and to the extent directed by HCPS all of the right, title and if ordered by HCPS possession and interest of Provider under the orders or sub Agreements terminated.
- 2.4.3 Deliver to HCPS all materials, equipment, data, drawings, specifications, reports, estimates, and such other information accumulated by the Provider which has been or will be reimbursed under this agreement after taking into account any damages that may be payable to HCPS. Title to such items shall be transferred to HCPS.

2.5 **Remedies Not Exclusive** – The rights and remedies contained in these terms and conditions are in addition to any other right or remedy provided by law, and the exercise of any of them is not a waiver of any other right or remedy provided by law.

3. **DRUG, TOBACCO, AND ALCOHOL**

All HCPS properties are "drug, tobacco, and alcohol-free zones" as designated by Local and State laws. Neither the Contractor or their employees (or subcontractors) are permitted to have any drugs, tobacco, or alcohol products on HCPS property. Use or possession of such items on HCPS property will result in immediate termination of the Contract.

4. **PROTEST AND APPEAL PROCESS**

Any bidder objecting to the recommendation for award or the award of a contract may appeal the action to the Supervisor of Procurement by formal notification in writing within seven (7) calendar days of award. A protest must include: the name, address, and contact information of the protestor; signature of the protestor or an authorized representative of the protestor; identification of the solicitation or proposal number; detailed statement of reasons for the protest; supporting documentation to substantiate the claim; and the remedy sought. A formal written response to the appeal shall be issued within ten (10) calendar days following receipt of the formal protest. The decision of the Supervisor of Procurement may be appealed to the Superintendent of Schools within five (5) business days following receipt of decision from the Supervisor of Procurement. The decision of the Superintendent is final and conclusive.

5. **NON-DISCRIMINATION**

- 5.1 The Contractor shall comply with all Federal and State anti-discrimination laws in the performance of this contract.
- 5.2 The Board of Education of Harford County Public does not discriminate on the basis of age, ancestry/national origin, color, disability, pregnancy, gender identity/expression, marital status, race, religion, sex, or sexual orientation in matters affecting employment or in providing access to programs and activities and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups.
- 5.3 In accordance with the requirements of Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 (20 U.S.C. §1681, *et seq.*), Harford County Public Schools does not discriminate on the basis of sex in any of its programs or activities or with regard to employment. Inquiries about the application of Title IX, and its implementing regulations to Harford County Public Schools may be referred to Renee McGlothlin, Harford County Public Schools Title IX Coordinator, by mail to 102 S. Hickory Avenue, Bel Air, Maryland 21014, or by telephone to [410-809-6087](tel:410-809-6087) or by email to Renee.McGlothlin@hcps.org or the Assistant Secretary for the Office of Civil Rights in the United States Department of Education by mail to 400 Maryland Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20202 or by telephone [1-800-421-3481](tel:1-800-421-3481), or both.
- 5.4 The Awarded Offeror shall furnish, if requested by HCPS, a compliance report concerning their employment practices and policies in order for HCPS to ascertain compliance with the special provisions of this contract concerning discrimination in employment
- 5.5 In the event the Awarded Offeror is deemed noncompliant with the nondiscrimination clause of this contract, this contract may be canceled, terminated, or suspended in whole or in part.

6. **NON-HIRING OF EMPLOYEES BY AWARDED OFFEROR OR HCPS**

- 6.1 No employee of the HCPS or any unit thereof, whose duties as such employee include matters relating to or affecting the subject matter of this contract, shall, while so employed, become or be an employee of the party or parties hereby contracting with the HCPS or any unit thereof.
- 6.2 No employee of the Awarded Offeror or any unit thereof, whose duties as such employee include matters relating to or affecting the subject matter of this contract, shall, while so employed, become or be an employee of the party or parties hereby contracting with the Awarded Offeror or any unit thereof.

7. FINANCIAL DISCLOSURE

The Awarded Offeror shall comply with the provisions of Section 13-221 of the State Finance and Procurement Article, Annotated Code of Maryland, which requires that every business that enters into contracts, leases or other agreements with the State of Maryland or its agencies, including school districts, during a calendar year under which the business is to receive in the aggregate \$100,000 or more, shall within thirty (30) days of the time when the aggregate value of these contracts, leases or other agreements reached \$100,000, file with the Secretary of State of Maryland certain specified information to include disclosure of beneficial ownership of the business.

8. POLITICAL CONTRIBUTION DISCLOSURE

Awarded Offeror shall comply with the provisions of Section 14-101 et seq. of the Election Law Article of the Maryland Code, which require that every person that enters into contracts, leases, or other agreements with the State of Maryland, including its agencies or a political subdivision of the State, including school districts, during a calendar year under which the person receives in the aggregate \$10,000 or more, shall, on or before February 1 of the following year, file with the Secretary of State of Maryland certain specified information to include disclosure of political contributions in excess of \$100 to a candidate for elective office in any primary or general election.

9. RETENTION OF RECORDS

The Awarded Offeror shall retain and maintain all records and documents relating to this contract for three (3) years after final payment by HCPS hereunder or any applicable statute of limitations, whichever is longer, and shall make them available for inspection and audit by authorized representatives of HCPS or designee, at all reasonable times.

10. LANGUAGE/GENDER

10.1 Proposer, offeror, vendor, consultant, firm, provider, and contractor all have the same meaning and may be used interchangeably.

10.2 The Board of Education of Harford County is also referred to as HCPS, Harford County Public Schools, and Board of Education which may be used interchangeably.

10.3 Proposal and offer all have the same meaning and can be used interchangeably.

11. COMPLIANCE WITH LAW

11.1 The Consultant hereby represents and warrants that it is qualified to do business in the State of Maryland and that it will take such action as, from time to time hereafter, may be necessary to remain so qualified.

11.2 The Provider hereby represents and warrants it is not in arrears with respect to the payment of any monies due and owing the County or State, of any department or agency thereof, including but not limited to the payment of taxes and employee benefits, and that it shall not become so in arrears during the term of this agreement.

11.3 The Provider shall comply with all Federal, State and Local law, ordinances and legally enforceable rules and regulations applicable to its activities and obligations under this agreement.

11.4 The Awarded Provider must, at its expense, obtain any and all licenses, permits, insurance, and governmental approval required by Local, State, and Federal authorities, if any, necessary to perform its obligations under this agreement.

11.5 The Contractor at the time of proposal opening must be fully licensed in all trades or special areas that require a license by Local, State, and Federal authorities.

11.6 It is the Provider's responsibility to notify HCPS of lapses in, suspension of or termination of special permits and licenses required under the Contract.

11.7 That the facts and matters set forth hereafter in the "Contract Affidavit" which is attached to this agreement and made a part hereof are true and correct.

12. PROVIDER'S OBLIGATION

12.1 The Awarded Offeror shall abide by and comply with the true intent of the specifications and not take advantage of any unintentional error or omission but shall fully complete every part as the true intent and meaning of the specifications,

as decided by HCPS, and as described herein. Deviations, exceptions, alternates, etc., may render the proposal as non-responsive.

- 12.2 The Provider shall perform the services with that standard of care, skill, and diligence normally provided by a provider in the performance of services similar to the services hereunder.
- 12.3 Notwithstanding any review, approval, acceptance, or payment for the services by HCPS, the Provider shall be responsible for professional and technical accuracy of its work furnished by the Provider under this agreement.
- 12.4 HCPS review, approval, or acceptance of, nor payment for, any of the services required under this contract shall be construed to operate as a waiver of any rights under this contract or of any cause of action arising out of the performance of this contract, and the Provider shall be and remain liable to HCPS in accordance with applicable law for all damages to HCPS caused by the Provider's negligent performance of any or the services furnished under this contract.
- 12.5 The rights and remedies of HCPS provided for under this contract are in addition to any rights and remedies provided by law.
- 12.6 In case of any apparent conflict between the specifications and such laws, ordinances, etc., the Awarded Offeror shall call the attention of the applicable HCPS designee(s) to such conflict for a decision before proceeding with any work.
- 12.7 Any deviations to the specifications or statement of work must be clearly noted in detail by the Offeror, in writing, at the time of submittal of the formal proposal.
- 12.8 The Awarded Offeror shall and will, in good professional manner, do and perform all services, except as herein otherwise expressly specified, necessary or proper to perform and complete all the work required by this contract, within the time herein specified, in accordance with the provisions of this contract and said specifications and in accordance with the specifications covered by this contract and any and all supplemental specifications, and in accordance with the directions of the Board of Education as given from time to time during the progress of the work. The Contractor shall observe, comply with and be subject to all terms conditions, requirements and limitations of the Contract and Specifications and shall do, carry on and complete the entire work to the complete satisfaction of the Board of Education.
- 12.9 Awarded Offeror may be required pursuant to the Business Regulation Article of the Maryland Code, to provide proof of Certificate of Registry.

13. INDEMNIFICATION

- 13.1 To the fullest extent permitted by law, the Indemnitor shall indemnify, defend and hold the Indemnitee and its employees, agents, officials or volunteers harmless from and against any and all claims, losses, damages, expenses, causes of action and liabilities including without limitations, attorney's fees arising out of or related to the Indemnitor's occupancy or use of the Indemnitee's premises or operations incidental thereto, provided that any such claim, loss, damage, expense, cause of action or liability is attributable to bodily injury, sickness, disease or death, or to injury to or destruction of tangible property, including loss of use resulting there from. Indemnitor expressly indemnifies Indemnitee for the consequences of any negligent act or omission of the Indemnitor or any of the Indemnitor's employees, agents, officials or volunteers or anyone for whose acts the Indemnitor may be liable, unless such act or omission constitutes gross negligence or willful misconduct.
- 13.2 In claims against any person or entity indemnified within this indemnification by an employee of the Awarded Offeror, a subcontractor, anyone directly or indirectly employed by them or anyone for whose acts they may be liable, the indemnification obligation shall not be limited by a limitation on amount or type of damages, compensation or benefits payable by or for the Awarded Offeror or a subcontractor under Workers' Compensation Acts, Disability Benefit Acts, or other employee benefit acts.

14. WAIVER OF RIGHT

The Provider agrees that it and its parent, its affiliates, and subsidiaries, if any; waive the right to offer on any procurement contract, of any tier, resulting from the services to be provided under this agreement.

15. INITIATION OF WORK

The Offeror shall not commence performance of the services until it receives a formal written notice from HCPS in the form of a Contract, Purchase Order, or Notice to Proceed from the Supervisor of Purchasing or designated Purchasing Agent.

16. DELAYS AND EXTENSIONS

The Provider shall pursue the work continuously and diligently and no charges or claims for damages shall be made by the Provider for any delays, acceleration, or hindrance, from any cause whatsoever, during the progress of any portion of the services specified in this agreement. Such delays, acceleration, or hindrances, if any, may be compensated for by an extension of time for such reasonable period as HCPS may decide. Time extensions will be granted only for excusable delays such as delays beyond the control of and without the fault or negligence of the Provider.

17. FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT

17.1 Offerors should give specific attention to the identification of those portions of their proposals that they deem to be confidential, proprietary information or trade secrets and provide any justification of why such materials, upon request, should not be disclosed by HCPS. Blanket requests for the entire proposal to be held confidential will not be considered.

17.2 HCPS shall determine, in its sole discretion, which (if any) portions of the Offeror's proposals shall be confidential. It is the responsibility of the Proposer to clearly mark such information (pages) as "Confidential".

18. STAFF

The Provider shall utilize the personnel named and/or otherwise identified in its proposal to perform services required. In the event that any of the personnel named are unable to perform because of death, illness, resignation from the Provider's employ, or similar reasons, the Provider shall promptly submit to the Contract Administrator, in writing, the name and qualifications of the proposed replacement. No substitutions shall be made without the proper written approval of the Contract Administrator and the Supervisor of Purchasing.

19. CHANGES, ALTERATIONS, OR MODIFICATIONS

19.1 HCPS shall have the right, at its discretion, to change, alter, or modify the services provided for in this agreement and such changes, alterations, or modifications may be made even though it will result in an increase or decrease in the services of the Provider or in the Contract cost thereof.

19.2 If such changes cause an increase or decrease in the Provider's cost of, or time required for, performance of any service under this contract, whether or not changed by an order, an equitable adjustment shall be made and the Contract shall be modified in writing accordingly. Any claim of the Provider for adjustment under this clause must be asserted in writing with thirty (30) days from the date of receipt by the Provider of the notification of change unless the Project Manager or his duly authorized representative grants a further period of time before the date of final payment under the Contract.

19.3 No services for which an additional cost or fee will be charged by the Provider without prior written authorization of HCPS.

20. SUBCONTRACTING OR ASSIGNMENT

The benefits and obligations hereunder shall inure to and be binding upon the parties hereto and their respective successors and assigns, provided any such General Provisions for Professional Services successor to the Provider, whether such successor or assign be an individual, a partnership, or a corporation, is acceptable to HCPS, and neither this agreement or the services to be performed thereunder shall be subcontracted, or assigned, or otherwise disposed of, either in whole or in part, except with the prior written consent of HCPS.

21. ILLEGAL IMMIGRANT LABOR

The use of illegal immigrant labor to fulfill contracts solicited by HCPS is in violation of the law and is strictly prohibited. Contractors and subcontractors must verify employment eligibility of workers in order to assure that they are not violating Federal/State/Local laws regarding illegal immigration. A compliance audit may be conducted.

22. EMPLOYMENT OF CHILD SEX OFFENDERS AND OTHER CRIMINAL OFFENDERS

22.1 If a child sex offender, as determined by the definitions contained in the Criminal Law Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland, is employed by the Awarded Bidder, the Awarded Bidder is prohibited from assigning that employee to perform management, delivery, installation, repair, construction, or any other type of services on any HCPS property, including the project property. Violation of this provision may result in Termination for Cause.

- 22.2 Contractor acknowledges and agrees that, pursuant to Section §6-113 of the Education Article of Maryland Code, Contractor is prohibited from knowingly assigning or permitting its Subcontractors from knowingly assigning any of the Contractor's or Subcontractor's employees to work in, on or about school premises if such employee may or would have direct, unsupervised and uncontrolled access to children if the employee has been convicted of, pled guilty or *nolo contendere*, to any of the following crimes.
- 21.2.1 A sexual offense in the third or fourth degree under §3-307 or §3-308 of the Criminal Law Article of the Maryland Code or an offense under the laws of another state that would constitute an offense under §3-307 or §3-308 of the Criminal Law Article if committed in Maryland;
 - 21.2.2 Child sexual abuse under §3-602 of the Criminal Law Article, or an offense under the laws of another state that would constitute child sexual abuse under §3-602 of the Criminal Law Article if committed in Maryland; or
 - 21.2.3 A crime of violence as defined in §14-101 of the Criminal Law Article, or an offense under the laws of another state that would be violation of §14-101 of the Criminal Law Article if committed in Maryland, including: (1) abduction; (2) arson in the first degree; (3) kidnapping; (4) manslaughter, except involuntary manslaughter; (5) mayhem; (6) maiming; (7) murder; (8) rape; (9) robbery; (10) carjacking; (11) armed carjacking; (12) sexual offense in the first degree; (13) sexual offense in the second degree; (14) use of a handgun in the commission of a felony or other crime of violence; (15) child abuse in the first degree; (16) sexual abuse of a minor; (17) an attempt to commit any of the crimes described in items (1) through (16) of this list; (18) continuing course of conduct with a child under §3-315 of the Criminal Law Article; (19) assault in the first degree; (20) assault with intent to murder; (21) assault with intent to rape; (22) assault with intent to rob; (23) assault with intent to commit a sexual offense in the first degree; and (24) assault with intent to commit a sexual offense in the second degree.
- 22.3 Direct unsupervised and uncontrolled access with students is prohibited. If you, as the Contractor/Site Supervisor, witness or suspect your employee(s) entering into a student area, action must be taken immediately to rectify the situation.
- 22.4 Section §11-722 of the Criminal Procedure Article of the Maryland Code prohibits any person with a contract with a local Maryland school system from knowingly employing an individual to work at the school if the individual is registered as a sex offender pursuant to Section §11-704 of the Criminal Procedure Article. Violation of this paragraph may result in termination of the agreement at HCPS's discretion.

23. **CRIMINAL BACKGROUND CHECKS FOR CONTRACTORS**

Amendments to Section §5-561 of the Family Law Article of the Maryland Code effective July 1, 2015, require each Contractor and Sub-Contractor with a local school system to ensure that any individuals in their work force undergo a criminal background check and fingerprinting if such individual will work in, on or about school premises and the individual will have direct, unsupervised and uncontrolled access to children.

The term “**work force**” means any of the Contractor's employees or the Contractor's Sub-Contractors and their employees.

Contractor shall cause any member of Contractor's work force to undergo a criminal history background check, including fingerprinting, if such work force member may or will work in, on or about school premises and may, or will have direct, unsupervised, and uncontrolled access to children. Such background check and fingerprinting shall meet the requirements of Section §5-560 to §5-569 of the Family Law Article of the Maryland Code.

The cost of such criminal background check and fingerprinting shall be paid by Contractor.

HCPS shall have the right, in its sole discretion, to prohibit any individual from performing any work at, or in or about school premises based on such individual's criminal background check.

- 23.1 IN ADDITION to the above requirements, Contractors shall comply with the requirements of House Bill 486 passed by the General Assembly in 2019, regarding screening of applicants for employment.
- 23.1.1 Effective July 1, 2019
 - 23.1.2 MSDE Guidance for House Bill 486 – Child Sexual and Sexual Misconduct Prevention) can be found online at www.marylandpublicschools.org.
 - 23.1.3 Submission of Section 000325 Contract Affidavit (HB 486/SB 541 Compliance) is required to be submitted prior to award of contract.

24. LABOR AND RATES OF PAY

- 24.1 The Awarded Offeror agrees that it shall abide by all applicable provisions of Federal and State law and regulation pertaining to workplace conditions, child labor and that all employees will be treated with dignity and respect.
- 24.2 The Awarded Offeror agrees to comply with all applicable Federal and State law and regulation relating to payment of wages.

25. PROCUREMENT-INVESTMENT ACTIVITIES IN IRAN

The Awarded Offeror agrees that it shall abide by and comply with Section 17-701 et seq. of the State Finance and Procurement Article of the Maryland Code, regarding business in Iran.

26. CONTRACT

The Proposal with respect to all items accepted, addenda, agreements and all papers and documents accompanying the same, including these general and special conditions of the RFP shall constitute the formal contract between the Offeror and HCPS.

27. COMPLIANCE WITH SPECIFICATIONS

- 27.1 The Awarded Bidder shall abide by and comply with the true intent of the specifications and not take advantage of any unintentional error or omission but shall fully complete every part as the true intent and meaning of the drawings and specifications as described.
- 27.2 The Awarded Bidder, after award and prior to starting work, may be required to submit working drawings or detailed descriptive data identified as acceptable to HCPS, which provide sufficient data to enable HCPS to judge the Awarded Bidder's compliance with the specifications.
- 27.3 Where the requirements of the specifications call for higher grade and are not in conflict with the laws, ordinances, etc., the specifications shall govern.
- 27.4 Where the requirements of the laws, ordinances, etc., are mandatory, they shall govern.
- 27.5 In case of any apparent conflict between the specifications and such laws, ordinances, etc., the Awarded Bidder shall call the attention of the applicable HCPS designee(s) to such conflict for a decision before proceeding with any work.
- 27.6 Any deviations to the Specifications or Statement of Work must be clearly noted in detail by the Bidder/Offeror, in writing, at the time of submittal of the formal proposal. Any deviations, alternations, or changes to the bid document or from the specifications as written may result in rejection of the Bidder's/Offeror's proposal or materials delivered.

28. BILLING AND PAYMENT

- 28.1 Each invoice shall list the purchase order number or contract number of HCPS and the items on the invoice shall be listed in the same order as on the purchase order. The original invoice shall be submitted to the Accounts Payable Office, via email to apinvoice@hcps.org, unless otherwise specified.
- 28.2 Payment in full will only be made upon final acceptance of items as shown on Purchase Order. Partial payments may be paid if partial shipments have been made and received.
- 28.3 Standard HCPS payment terms are net thirty (30) days.
- 28.4 HCPS will not pay freight bills, unless stated otherwise. Delivery shall be F.O.B., to the destination(s) as noted on Purchase Order.

29. GOVERNING LAW AND DISPUTE RESOLUTION

- 29.1 Any contract shall be construed in accordance with, and interpreted under, the laws of the State of Maryland. Any lawsuits arising out of such bid shall be filed in the appropriate State Court located in Harford County, Maryland.
- 29.2 Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) may be used at HCPS's sole discretion, but HCPS is not obligated to utilize ADR.

30. **CONFLICTS OF INTEREST**

Each proposer must disclose any existing or potential conflict of interest relative to the provision of services outlined herein. Examples of potential conflicts may include an existing business or personal relationship between the firm, its principal, or any affiliate or subcontractor, with HCPS or any other entity or person involved in any way in the contract. Similarly, any personal or business relationship between the firm, the principals, or any affiliate or subcontractor, with any employee of HCPS, members of the Board, investment managers/advisors, investment Providers, custodian, or plan recordkeepers must be disclosed. Any such relationship that might be perceived or represented as a conflict must be disclosed on Attachment D.

31. **ORDER OF PRECEDENCE**

In the event of an inconsistency among provisions of this Request for Proposal, the inconsistency shall be resolved by the following order of precedence:

31.1 Performance Work Statement

31.2 Specifications/Terms of the Request for Proposal

31.3 General Terms and Conditions for Request for Proposal

32. **IT ACCESSIBILITY PROGRAM**

32.1 Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act (29 U.S.C. 794d), as amended in 1998, is a federal law that requires agencies to provide individuals with disabilities equal access to electronic information and data comparable to those who do not have disabilities, unless an undue burden would be imposed on the agency. The Section 508 standards are the technical requirements and criteria that are used to measure conformance within this law. More information on Section 508 and the technical standards can be found at www.section508.gov.

32.2 Section 508 requires agencies, during the procurement, development, maintenance, or use of ICT, to ensure that individuals with disabilities have access to and use of ICT information and data comparable to the access and use afforded to individuals without disabilities (i.e., "ICT accessibility"), unless an undue burden would be imposed on the agency. The Section 508 standards are the technical requirements and criteria that are used to measure conformance with the law and incorporate the W3C Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG) 2.2.

33. **TECHNOLOGY-BASED INSTRUCTIONAL PRODUCTS**

33.1 HCPS is committed to ensuring that digital technology (hardware, instructional software, online resources, and computer-based equipment) is accessible to individuals with disabilities. The Vendor guarantees that all digital tools supplied under this contract meet the accessibility requirements of the Web Content Accessibility Guidelines ("WCAG") 2.2 Level AA and conform to the most recent Section 508 standards for information technology accessibility under the federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973. "Digital tool" is defined pursuant to Md. Code Ann., Educ., § 7-910.

33.2 All online platforms must conform to the guidelines for accessibility as set forth in the WCAG version 2.2 [W3C WCAG 2.2 Now Available](#) (minimum Level AA conformance). HCPS will only consider vendors whose products conform to these standards. Conformance to the specified standards can be documented through the submission of an up-to-date, complete, and accurate Accessibility Conformance Report (ACR). The ACR must address the leading ICT accessibility standards: Section 508 (U.S.), EN 301 549 (EU), and W3C/WAI WCAG. The ACR must include the latest version of the [Voluntary Product Accessibility Template](#) (VPAT®), which can be obtained from the Information Technology Industry Council (ITI) website (<https://www.itic.org/>).

33.3 For digital tools, vendors are required to submit an accessibility conformance report that includes a Voluntary Product Accessibility Template for any invitation for bids, requests for proposals, procurement contracts, grants, or modifications to contracts or grants. The accessibility conformance report must explain how information and communication technology products, including software, electronic content, and support documentation, conform to the most recent ICT accessibility standards: Section 508 (U.S.), EN 301 549 (EU), and W3C/WAI WCAG. The instructions and the required forms can be found at the General Services Administration (GSA) Section 508 website at <https://www.section508.gov/sell/how-to-create-acr-with-vpat/>.

33.4 **Vendor Notice of Equivalent Access Standards**

In accordance with Md. Code Ann., Educ., § 7-910, "equivalent access" includes the ability to receive, use, and manipulate information and operate controls necessary to access and use information technology, including by nonvisual means, so that a student with disabilities can access the same services as a student without disabilities with

substantially equivalent ease of use.

“Equivalent access” includes:

1. Keyboard controls used for input and synthesized speech;
2. Braille; and
3. Other audible or tactile means used for output.

“Nonvisual access” means the ability to receive, use, and manipulate information and operate controls necessary to access information and communications technology through keyboard controls, synthesized speech, braille, or other methods not requiring sight.

33.5 Accessibility Indemnification and Guarantees

33.5.1 The Vendor agrees to indemnify and hold harmless HCPS from any costs, expenses, liabilities, or obligations arising from accessibility-related issues involving the digital tools provided under this contract. This indemnification includes the defense of any legal action or proceedings alleging non-compliance with federal or State of Maryland accessibility laws and regulations and payment of any resulting liabilities. This clause will survive the termination of the contract.

33.5.2 Vendors failing to meet the equivalent access standards established under Subsection (a)(2) of Section 508 of the federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973 or WCAG 2.2 Level AA may face civil penalties set forth in Md. Code Ann., Educ., § 7-910.

33.5.3 For all technology based instructional products, online platforms, and digital tools, Vendors must maintain and improve their digital accessibility in compliance with evolving standards and best practices. Vendors will provide a listing of timelines for expected improvements to the programs. Vendors will establish a mechanism for users to report accessibility issues and ensure prompt resolution of reported problems.

33.6 Third-Party Technology

The Vendor acknowledges that supplying third-party technology does not exempt the Vendor from ensuring product compliance with this clause. The Vendor bears sole responsibility for determining the accessibility of such technology and must ensure that it can be edited or remediated as necessary to comply with accessibility standards.

34. FORCE MAJEURE

34.1 A party shall not be liable for any failure of or delay in the performance of this agreement for the period that such failure or delay is beyond the reasonable control of a party, materially affects the performance of any of its obligations under this agreement, and could not reasonably have been foreseen or provided against, but will not be excused for failure or delay resulting from only general economic conditions or other general market effects.

34.2 The list of events to be included is a matter of negotiation between the parties. Such causes may include, but are not limited to, acts of God, nature or the public enemy, terrorism, invasion, insurrection, order of court, judge, or civil authority, strike, stoppage of labor, riot, and unusually severe weather, significant fires, floods, earthquakes, storms, epidemics, pandemics, quarantine restrictions, strikes, freight embargos, government regulation, or governmental authorities, and delays which are not caused by any act or omission.

34.3 If either party is delayed by force majeure, the time of contract completion may be extended by contract modification, for a period of time equal to that delay caused under this condition. HCPS may also consider requests for price increase for raw materials that are directly attributable to the cause of delay. HCPS reserves the right to cancel the contract and/or purchase materials, equipment, or services from the best available source during the time of force majeure, and Contractor shall have no recourse against HCPS. Further, except for payment of sums due, neither party shall be liable to the other or deemed in default under this contract, if and to the extent that such party's performance of this contract is prevented by reason of force majeure as defined herein.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties hereto have executed this Agreement on the day and year first above written.

ATTEST:

Name:
Title:
Date:

HARFORD COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS:

Name:
Title:
Date:

ATTEST:

Name:
Title:
Date:

PROVIDER: _____

Name:
Title:
Date:

ATTACHMENT J

COST PROPOSAL

Firm Name: _____

TO THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF HARFORD COUNTY:

We propose to provide to Harford County Public Schools in accordance with the General Provisions, Scope of Service, and other documents of this Request for Proposal:

****Middle-Tier Coverage - Assume no underlying medical conditions****

<u>MONTHLY PRICING SAMPLES</u>	<u>MONTHLY PRICING</u>
Maryland Rates for a 1-year-old Lab	
Maryland Rates for a 3-year-old Lab	
Maryland Rates for a 5-year-old Lab	
Maryland Rates for a 7-year-old Lab	
Maryland Rates for a 9-year-old Lab	
Maryland Rates for a 11-year-old Lab	
Maryland Rates for a 13-year-old Lab	
Maryland Rates for a 1-year-old Domestic Short Hair Cat	
Maryland Rates for a 3-year-old Domestic Short Hair Cat	
Maryland Rates for a 5-year-old Domestic Short Hair Cat	
Maryland Rates for a 7-year-old Domestic Short Hair Cat	
Maryland Rates for a 9-year-old Domestic Short Hair Cat	
Maryland Rates for a 11-year-old Domestic Short Hair Cat	
Maryland Rates for a 13-year-old Domestic Short Hair Cat	
Multi-Pet Discount	
Factors Affecting Rates	
Commissions	

Will your rates/fees be guaranteed for a 36-month period? _____

Will your rates/fees be guaranteed for a 60-month period? _____

Please list the rates for additional services which may be required throughout the contract period. You may add pages if necessary.